



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES
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PUBLIC HEARING

**State of Maternal Health: An Examination of Maternal Mortality And Morbidity Rates in
New York State**

Monday
February 24, 2025
10am -2pm
Hearing Room A
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

PURPOSE: The purpose of the hearing is to document concerns, and ideas from various stakeholders and impacted individuals about the barriers to prenatal and postpartum care. Testimony will be taken from governmental administrators, advocacy groups, health practitioners and professionals, and individuals who have been impacted by maternal mortality and morbidity issues in New York.

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Witness Panels

Panel A

- NYS Department of Health
 - Johanne Morne- DOH Executive Deputy Commissioner
- NYS Department of Health
 - Dr. Kirsten Siegenthaler-DOH Director, Division of Family Health

Panel B

- The Bronx Health Link
 - Anastasia Libovich-Practicing Midwife
- New York Midwives
 - Helena Grant-President
 - Patricia O. Loft-Licensed Midwife
 - Odessa Fynn-NYC Representative
- Pregnancy Justice
 - Ashley C. Sawyer-Senior Policy Counsel
- NYC Commission for Gender Equity
 - Chanel L. Porchia-Albert CD, CLC, CHHC- Doula

Panel C

- Albert Einstein-Montefiore College of Medicine
 - Dr. Shani R. Scott-MD
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 - Dr. Ashanda Saint Jean
- United Health Services Hospitals, Inc
 - Erin Raskin, MSN, RN-Nurse Manager of Maternity and Newborn Nursery
 - Krystal Thompson, MD-Obstetrics & Gynecology, Women's Health
- New York State Psychiatric Association
 - Frank Dowling, MD-Member, Committee on Legislation; Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook
- New York State Nurses Association
 - Janna Walter-RN

Panel D

- The Birthing Place
 - Myla Flores-Founder
- HealthConnect One
 - Dr. Twylla Dillion-President & CEO
- NYS Child and Family Wellbeing Fund Workgroup
 - Angela Olivia Burton-Steering Committee Member
- 1199 SEIU
 - Tori Newman-Legislative Coordinator
- National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First
 - Katelyn Galbraith-Government Affairs Manager
- National Institute for Reproductive Health
 - Hunter Stewart-Program and Partnerships Manager