

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 136

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

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Ebony Johnson, Policy Associate

The Afiya Center

Dallas, TX

More than half of all maternal deaths in the US now occur following delivery, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with as many as 24 percent happening six or more weeks after a woman gives birth. In Texas, the proportion of late-postpartum deaths is closer to 40 percent, with black women bearing the greatest risk. In the past few years, maternal health researchers in the US have seen a dramatic shift in what kills, or nearly kills, pregnant women and new mothers. Historically, the leading medical causes were acute crises: hemorrhages, severe infections, blood clots. These days, the greatest risks come from chronic conditions — diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease — that can escalate during pregnancy. House Bill 136 would aid Texas in creating this registry because as of today, Texas does not keep or relay incidences of maternal mortality for the purposes of providing data and a registry that can be used to research, equip, and provide the necessary information needed to prevent future incidents. Women of color are most affected in the communities we serve. As an intern for the Afiya Center, I was tasked with research and creation of a white book report all on Maternal Mortality & Morbidity and found the data to be either non-existent or not there and it was difficult to find any numbers, real life cases and examples of maternal deaths and complications. I support House Bill 136 because it will be a push forward in acquiring the information needed that will help health systems and individuals understand how maternal health plays a key role in women's lives.

Andrea Reyes

Deeds Not Words, Self

Austin, TX

We are in favor of this bill.

Lamberto DelaPeña, Driver

Self

El paso, TX

I hope this Bill passes

Olin Wicker

setcor

Port Neches, TX

Training topics do not change year to year so training get repetitive  
Staff time can be spent in more valuable activities for patient care  
Other mechanisms are in place to protect patients