

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on S/C on Disease Prevention & Women's & Children's Health  
For HB 2117

Compiled on: Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:51 AM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2025 8:00 AM

Laura Gallier  
Self-retired CPA  
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. Nationally and in Texas the racial disparities in outcomes for women in childbirth depending on their race is terrifying. My daughter in law is a woman of color, and they want to have several children. It's so scary to think of Serena Williams, one of the premiere athletes of our lifetime, almost bleeding out despite she can afford the best care money can provide. Please do everything possible to make childbirth safe for women of color.

Helen Davis  
Self  
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB2117

Stacy Perez  
Self  
Austin, TX

Texas urgently needs this bill to address its alarmingly high maternal mortality rate, which stands at 34.5 deaths per 100,000 live births—one of the highest in the country. The state also ranks second to last in overall women's health and reproductive care, highlighting severe disparities in access and quality of maternal health services. This bill is a crucial step in reversing these trends by expanding the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee's ability to study pregnancy-related deaths, analyze disparities, and recommend targeted strategies for improvement.

A key component of this bill is the requirement for annual data collection and review. This should make it easier to track real-time trends or respond quickly to emerging crises. With yearly reviews, Texas will have a clearer, more up-to-date picture of where and why maternal deaths are happening, allowing for faster and more effective interventions.

California, by contrast, has implemented successful maternal health programs, reducing its maternal mortality rate to 10.5 deaths per 100,000 live births—less than a third of Texas's rate. By studying and implementing best practices from states like California and ensuring consistent data collection, Texas can take meaningful action to improve maternal health outcomes. If left unaddressed, Texas will continue to see preventable maternal deaths, particularly in underserved communities. This bill provides an essential foundation for identifying solutions, increasing accountability, and ensuring that every mother in Texas has access to safe, high-quality maternal care.

Nakeenya Wilson  
Black Mamas Village  
Hutto, TX

To the Members of the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Committee's decision to conduct a comprehensive review of all years of maternal health data in Texas.

I served for three years on the MMMRC as the community advocate, and I bring not only professional experience but personal understanding to this issue. I am a survivor of a traumatic birth experience in 2016—an experience that forever changed my life and fueled my commitment to maternal health and justice.

Because of this, I know first-hand how important it is to optimize the work of this Committee. It is not just a technical process—it is a life-saving one. This work has real implications for real people. Ensuring that every mother who died is seen, that her story is honored, and that her death is examined with care and intention is essential to building a healthcare system that values all lives—especially Black lives and those most impacted by systemic inequity.

While this expanded review will not change the cadence of reporting, it does allow us to engage in a more thorough and truthful analysis. Reviewing all years of data offers the opportunity to detect meaningful trends—particularly the increases in complications and maternal deaths that have emerged in the years following legislative changes that restricted access to reproductive healthcare. These shifts matter.

Today, more people are becoming pregnant with far fewer options. With diminished reproductive autonomy, we are witnessing more complications, more preventable harm, and more maternal deaths. A comprehensive, longitudinal review is critical to understanding how policy, access, and health outcomes are interwoven—and to ensuring that our response is grounded in both evidence and equity.

I urge the Committee to carry this review forward with urgency and care. Let us use this opportunity to improve maternal health systems, to prevent further loss, and to ensure that every mother counts.

In solidarity and hope,

Nakeenya Wilson  
Former Community Advocate, Texas MMMRC  
[Executive Director, Black Mamas Village, Maternal Health Equity Collaborative

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Rosa Brennan  
self  
Houston, TX

Adding the phrase "annually, using data from the preceding year" gives the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee the ability to do its job each and every year, and protect their essential research from being buried by those who seek to cover up the fact that women die from pregnancy-related events. For these reasons, I support HB 2117.