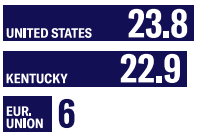
IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH

People of color are 3 times more likely to die from complications during or soon after pregnancy than their white peers[1]. KY must implement policies addressing racial bias in medicine and increasing access to doulas.

THE PROBLEM

The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality among the world's wealthiest countries[2]. Maternal mortality rates are 3 times higher for people of color and nearly 4 times higher for African-Americans, compared to their white peers[1, 3].



Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births[2, 4].

U.S. maternal mortality rate rose 26% from 2010-14[5].

Pregnant people of color have 3x the maternal mortality rate.

Black infants are 2x likelier to die before their 1st birthday than non-Hispanic white infants[6].

Maternal and infant mortality happens to pregnant people of color of all incomes[7].

Mortality rates are higher for all people of color due to structural racism in healthcare[8].

THE SOLUTION

The ACLU of Kentucky supports House Bill 138, the Maternal CARE Act, which would to address racial disparities in maternal mortality in 3 key ways:

Address racial bias in medicine by requiring implicit bias training

Allow patients to pay for doula services with Medicare

Establish transparent process to review maternal and infant deaths

WHAT IS IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING?

Implicit bias is an automatic, subconscious feeling or attitude about a certain group of people. It does not come from a place of negative intent, but results in unequal treatment. Implicit bias training teaches people how to identify these patterns of thinking and change them to eliminate discriminatory behaviors.

WHAT ARE DOULAS?

Doulas inform and advocate for pregnant people before, during, and after birth. Doulas provide individualized and culturally-specific education about pregnancy and childcare, and ways to reduce stress and promote a healthy pregnancy. They visit patients at home and are present during delivery to ensure the patient receives the care they need.

ACLU Kentucky

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