

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

May 16, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal,

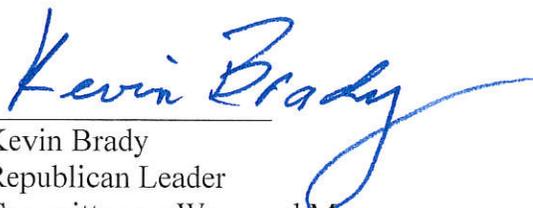
Thank you for convening today's hearing entitled "Overcoming Racial Disparities and Social Determinants in the Maternal Mortality Crisis." This hearing builds on the investigation we initiated last Congress into rising death rates among mothers before, during, and after childbirth. After reviewing thousands of pages of documents, it's clear that the crisis is multifaceted and there is more work to be done. With that in mind, I invite you and your Democrat colleagues to partner with Ways and Means Republicans as we continue to investigate the maternal mortality crisis so that we can work together on comprehensive solutions.

As you know, approximately 700 women across the U.S. die each year as a result of pregnancy or pregnancy-related complications. African American women experience maternal deaths at a rate three to four times that of all women. It's more dangerous to give birth in 2019 than it was 20 years ago, particularly for women of color.

Bringing a baby into the world should be the most exciting experience for a mother and her family. Unfortunately, this is not the case for all mothers. The rising rates of maternal mortality are absolutely unacceptable in this country. We can do better. America needs us to do better.

I applaud the continuation of the Republican-led efforts on this tragic national issue and look forward to finding bipartisan solutions in support of America's mothers. Today's hearing is an important step in the path to uncovering those solutions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means