

MI MOMNIBUS: Momnibus for Michigan? Why Now?



What is Momnibus?

Momnibus is a piece of legislation (an act) that includes several bills to improve maternal and infant health by addressing systemic racism and other social determinants of health. [The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021](#) was introduced at the federal level in 2020 by Congresswoman Alma Adams, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Senator Kamala Harris, and Black Maternal Health Caucus members. It contains nine bills to “comprehensively address every dimension of the maternal health crisis in America.” It has not yet been passed.

Do states have Momnibus?

In the last year, birth justice advocates in [Colorado](#) and [California](#) passed local Momnibus bill packages to address access, inequities, and mistreatment in their state maternal health systems. These state Momnibus Acts are a model for other states seeking to transform maternity care.

The Colorado Momnibus, called the Birth Equity Bill Package, is a package of three bills crafted with the support of [Elephant Circle](#). This bill helps lead the way to broader conversations at the state level. It is an example of addressing the wide range of issues facing pregnant people in one comprehensive policy platform. This comprehensive approach is a hallmark of the reproductive and birth justice movements.

What would Momnibus mean for Michigan?

Now is the time for Momnibus in Michigan (MI Momnibus). Birth justice advocates from around the state are working to address systemic racism in our maternal health system by increasing access to midwifery care and centering ourselves as leaders in our own care. Legislative barriers are limiting the reach of this crucial work. Licensing birth centers and reimbursing midwifery care across birth settings is paramount to improving maternal health in Michigan. A comprehensive statewide bill, centering community needs and desires, reducing barriers to midwifery care, and respecting the human rights and dignity of all birthing people would help improve maternal health equity and the lives of Michigan families.

Who can make it happen?

Together, we can make it happen! A strong coalition of community change-makers can come together to improve access to midwifery-led maternal health care for all Michigan families. [Mothering Justice](#), [Birth Detroit](#), and [Elephant Circle](#), with support from [SisterSong](#), are convening community stakeholders from across Michigan to start the conversation.

Why now?

All people deserve access to safe birth options of their choice – and to dignity and respect in maternal health care. Disparities in maternal health care are preventable. Research shows us what works, and our communities know what we want. Our families cannot wait.

What is the Birth Detroit Birth Justice and Policy Agenda?

The [Birth Detroit Birth Justice and Policy Agenda](#) suggests actions to improve access to care and realize birth justice in our state. Birth center licensure, reimbursement for midwives and doulas, Medicaid coverage extension, comprehensive support for rural and urban families, and more Black, Indigenous, and providers of color are needed.

What is needed?

You tell us! [Mothering Justice](#), [Birth Detroit](#), and [Elephant Circle](#) have developed a short survey to invite input from communities across Michigan. Survey link will be available after the first State of Birth Justice Community Town Hall on February 8th.

For more information email mibirthjustice@gmail.com.

Together we can create a safer, more just place for birth in Michigan!

