

**From:** [Arellano, Joey](#)  
**To:** [Press](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Kamia Brown Files Bill to Revise the Department of Health's Duties under Closing the Gap Grant  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:23:36 PM

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2021

**CONTACT**

Adrianna Tran  
Office of Representative Kamia Brown  
[adrianna.tran@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:adrianna.tran@myfloridahouse.gov)  
(850) 717-5045

**Representative Kamia Brown Files Bill to Revise the Department of Health's Duties under Closing the Gap Grant**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – This bill, [HB 1381](#), amends Florida Statute 381.7353 to include maternal health programs under the Closing the Gap grant program that aims to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.

“Addressing the racial and ethnic health disparities is absolutely critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of Black mothers,” says **Representative Brown (D-Ocoee)**. “Providing our full support to community-based programs is how we can close this gap in health equity.”

Currently, Black women in the U.S. die from pregnancy-related causes at rates nearly four times higher than white women. According to the Florida Department of Health, “social factors such as low levels of social support, lower socioeconomic status, chronic exposure to environmental hazards or social stressors such as racism, fragmentation of or difficulty accessing health care” are possibly factors into this statistic.

This bill's purpose is to decrease the severe maternal mortality and morbidity rates, as well as other maternal health outcomes, such as complications including hemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, and cardiomyopathy. It has just passed through the Professions & Public Health Committee.

# # #