

Senate Health & Human Services

03/26/2026

HB26-1044 Measures to Improve Black Maternal Health Equity

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Stan Gelb For themselves	This bill could save many lives. Please vote YES!

To: Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee
From: Oliver Godoy, Young Advocate @ Young Invincibles - Colorado
Re: HB26-1044 - Measures to Improve Black Maternal Health Equity

Dear Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Oliver Godoy, and I represent Young Invincibles as a Young Advocate. I am a current student at MSU Denver completing my undergraduate degree in Gender, Women, and Sexualities Studies. I am here today to encourage you to pass HB26-1044.

As a student at MSU Denver, I have had the opportunity to learn about pregnancy and access to healthcare for pregnant people across the United States. I have also had many people in my life face dangerous pregnancies; I want all the people in my community to feel safe and have a healthy pregnancy. One of my family members, unfortunately, had to endure three Caesarean sections and is now unable to safely have any more children. I deeply care for my family member and all her children and am glad she was able to receive the medical care necessary to give birth. These pregnancies can be very dangerous, and many medical professionals have to step in to ensure the safety of her life and her children. All people deserve equal opportunity to detect issues at conception until the due date to ensure a safe pregnancy. According to the CDC [1], "Every pregnancy-related death is tragic, especially because more than 80% of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable." Knowing this, it is important to ensure that all women, especially the women most at risk, are able to access necessary healthcare and are not turned away or treated differently due to their race. Through this bill, the State of Colorado will be able to track and ensure that we are caring for all of our citizens, and that Coloradans in the future will have safer, healthier pregnancies.

Providing all women with equal access to necessary healthcare is both a necessity and a task Colorado should be proud to spearhead. Black women in the United States face the most disproportionate number of setbacks during pregnancy, which places them in the most dangerous category to be in during pregnancy. No person should fear that their pregnancy can cost them their lives, especially when, according to the CDC [1], "Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women". This statistic is very shocking, and many of these are caused by black women receiving inferior care.

All women deserve equal access to care, and addressing our most at-risk population will lead the way for all women in Colorado to have equal access to healthcare during their pregnancy. I urge you to pass HB26-1044 so that we can fulfill this commitment. Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Oliver Godoy

Young Advocate | Young Invincibles - Colorado

References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/womens-health/features/maternal-mortality.html>

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