

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Statement for the Record Prepared by Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Health Subcommittee

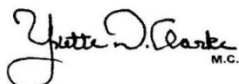
April 5, 2022

First, let me thank Chairman Pallone and Chairwoman Eshoo for calling this important hearing on supporting the mental health and well-being of communities in need. We especially need to invest more towards supporting mothers suffering from mental health issues and substance use disorders.

I am proud of the work the House Energy and Commerce Committee has done to identify and expand the various mental health programs. While we will examine several strong legislative proposals today, I want to highlight one I am co-leading with Representative Katherine Clark, H.R. 7073, the Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health Act. This bill would reauthorize grants for maternal mental health and substance use disorder screening, brief intervention, and treatment services for women who are postpartum, pregnant, or have given birth within 12 months. Additionally, it would authorize \$24 million annually for FY 2023 through FY 2028.

For the sacred gift of life that it brings, pregnancy can be a precious and blessed time in the lives of mothers who are experiencing it. Sadly though, pregnancy also carries countless dangers to both mothers and their children that can persist long past birth. This legislation is not only a necessary step towards providing new and expecting mothers and their children with the resources they need to stay health, both physically and mentally, but it reaffirms our commitment to support mothers through whatever difficulties they may face. Furthermore, this bill is an opportunity to protect and serve American mothers by providing them with the proper resources to lead a safe and healthy postpartum life. That is why I am proud to stand with my colleagues in this noble pursuit and believe passing this legislation is an important step in ensuring no mother will suffer alone.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress