

# The Maternal Mortality Review Team

## SB490, Sen. Aird; HB831, Del. Cousins

# FACT SHEET



**Virginia's maternal mortality review team does not currently review morbidity in addition to maternal mortality.**



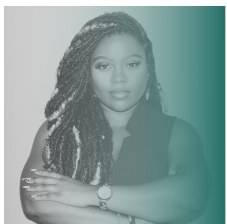
**Tracking only maternal mortality leaves out a vital part of the picture** when it comes to maternal healthcare outcomes. Maternal morbidity involves “close calls”, where a birthing person becomes seriously ill or nearly dies.



The only way to know and understand **how and why we have a maternal mortality crisis** and severe disparities in Virginia is to not just look at the fatal cases *but also to look at the close calls*. In close call cases, we can actually speak with individuals who had these experiences and obtain an important perspective on how and why people fall through the cracks.



**It is only possible to have the whole gamut of policy solutions by talking to and working with community healthcare workers**, such as doulas, midwives, and others who directly work with the impact of populations.



**We know that in Virginia, our maternal mortality numbers are not getting better**, and we know that the disparity continues to persist between maternal mortality for black women and their white counterparts. In good news, we have models for more robust maternal mortality review teams in other states like Illinois and Arizona, where these teams involve community members and look at morbidity.

### **What will the working group do?**

We hope that the workgroup can convene experts in the field and look to lessons, learn from other states, and figure out how to best expand and modify the maternal mortality review team in Virginia to serve our population better and provide us with better data and better policy proposals and solutions so we can continue to tackle the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis in the state.

### **The 2-Sentence Talking Points:**

Virginia tracks maternal mortality but not morbidity. Nor does it include community doulas and other community healthcare workers who can bring an important perspective to its work, especially when it comes to creative community-involved and driven solutions to the maternal mortality crisis in Virginia.