

State Representative | 24th Legislative District

LA'TASHA D. MAYES



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Hello Neighbors! As we move further into the new year, I wanted to take a moment to highlight all the incredible things we did in 2025, both in the district and in Harrisburg. In the pages of this newsletter, you will find updates about funding that I helped secure for projects and organizations within the district, legislation I introduced and passed to improve Black maternal mortality, address inequities in health care, and expand access to – plus, the freshly signed-into-law PA CROWN Act!

Please know that I am incredibly proud to serve you and represent you in Harrisburg, where I will always continue the fight to strengthen our families and communities. Also, please remember that my district office can help with a wide range of state services. Give us a call or stop by to see how we can help!

THE PA CROWN ACT BECOMES LAW

Great News, Neighbors! After six years of advocacy, race-based hair discrimination is now illegal in Pennsylvania!

Gov. Josh Shapiro signed the Pennsylvania CROWN Act (H.B. 439 now Act 54 of 2025), landmark civil rights legislation I introduced with PA Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton, into law last year. This Act took effect on January 24, 2026, and natural hair is now protected in our Commonwealth. The PA CROWN Act being my first piece of legislation signed into law is so deeply significant for me because this law is a major victory for not only Black Pennsylvanians, but for all Pennsylvanians. Hair discrimination is real, and with the signing of this bill into law, we begin to remove significant barriers to work, school and community simply because of how a person's hair grows naturally out of their head. We are changing the future of our Commonwealth, expanding economic and social opportunity, and restoring hopes and dreams with the Pennsylvania CROWN Act.



For too long, Black Pennsylvanians have been pressured to wear our hair to meet someone else's expectations, which has jeopardized our financial, emotional, cultural, social, and environmental health and well-being. Now, the PA CROWN Act makes clear in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act that discrimination based on a person's hair type, texture, or hairstyle is strictly prohibited.

Multiple states have passed similar laws to protect people from hair discrimination, and Pennsylvania now joins that list.

Now our children will grow up in a more equitable place where they can hold their heads up high and wear their crowns with pride! I could not be more humbled to serve as the Prime Sponsor of the PA CROWN Act!

We have made HERSTORY in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by choosing to protect natural hair under the law—every coil, every kink, every curl—everywhere!



FIGHTING FOR BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH IN PENNSYLVANIA

GET ON THE BUS—THE PA MOMNIBUS!



PA MOMNIBUS 2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

HB 432 REP. GINA H. CURRY Addressing maternal health deserts through maternal care access zones Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 526 REP. JENNIFER O'MARA Pumping coverage in the Freedom to Breastfeed Act Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 707 REP. LA'TASHA D. MAYES Nursing parent rooms in state buildings Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law
HB 1088 REP. MANDY STEELE Blood pressure monitors coverage in private insurance Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 1192 REP. CHRIS PIELLI Moms and substance abuse diversion court Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 1212 REP. ABNEY REP. CEPHAS PA Dads Matter Act Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law
HB 1234 REP. LA'TASHA D. MAYES Blood pressure monitors coverage in Medicaid Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 1240 REP. MAYES REP. CURRY Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit pilot program Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 1628 REP. CEPHAS Safeguarding Postpartum Medicaid Coverage through 1-year Postpartum Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

REP. GINA H. CURRY'S BILL PACKAGE
Expanding Midwifery Access & Authority for Healthier Communities

HB 1251 Physical Therapy Practice Act granting nurse-midwives authority to refer patients Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law	HB 1851 Vital Statistics Law allowing nurse-midwives to complete/affirm reports Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law
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PABlackMaternalHealth.com Enter the Bill Number & Subscribe for updates!



The PA Black Maternal Health Caucus wasted no time getting to work this legislative session! We have introduced a wide range of bills across many differing aspects of maternal health. So far, I am proud to share that we've passed the following bills out of the House from the Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS 2.0 legislative package:

- HB 1088: Requiring private insurance to cover blood pressure monitors (Steele)
- HB 1234: Requiring Medicaid to cover blood pressure monitors (Mayes)
- HB 1212: PA Dads Matter Act (Abney/Cephas)
- HB 1251: Expanding Midwifery Access and Authority for Healthier Communities (Curry)



Photos from the PA MOMNIBUS Day at the Capitol last year.



BUDGET WINS FOR THE PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

- ✓ \$4.9 Million for Black Maternal Health
- ✓ \$1.4 Million for Maternal and Child Health
- ✓ \$10.6 Million for Obstetric and Neonatal Services
- ✓ \$13.9 Million for Nurse Family Partnership
- ✓ \$31.1 Million in total

The 2025–2026 Pennsylvania state budget includes a combined \$31.1 million for programs aimed at improving maternal, infant, and family health outcomes across the Commonwealth, which is the greatest investment in maternal health ever. The funding supports several initiatives focused on prenatal care, infant health services, and evidence-based support programs for new parents.



These investments are intended to help expand access to health services, strengthen maternal and neonatal care capacity, and provide community-based support to families during pregnancy and early childhood.



In 2026, the Black Maternal Health Caucus will be fighting to ensure that the rest of these bills pass the General Assembly and head to the governor's desk.



PA Black Maternal Health Caucus Celebrates 2nd Anniversary!



On October 17, 2023, our caucus was founded with a commitment to legislative action to address the stark realities of maternal health in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We celebrated our second anniversary back in October at the Capitol by reflecting on everything we have accomplished in the last two years and looking forward to all we still have to do in the years to come.

I want to thank my Co-Chairs, Rep. Gina H. Curry and Rep. Morgan Cephas, for their leadership and our shared vision; Speaker Joanna McClinton for supporting our Caucus from Day 1; all the members of the Caucus; all Black maternal health and midwifery care advocates, birth workers, mamas and birthing people, and healthcare providers; our District Office and Capitol staff who have made these two years possible; and all of our advocacy partners.

We will end Black maternal mortality in our Commonwealth!



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YOUR VOICE IN HARRISBURG

Whether it's state services, programs, or questions, my office is here to serve you!

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- LIHEAP
- PennDOT Services
- PRT Senior ConnectCards
- Help with Unemployment

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pittsburgh Black Maternal Health Week 2026

April 11-17
 Register at RepLaTashaDMayes.com

Black Maternal Health Week at the Capitol 2026

April 13-14
 Register at pahouse.com/bmh

2025 WRAPPED



The CROWN Act was signed into law!

My District Office Stats

1



Grant Funding Awarded:
\$13.5 Million

2



Total Casework Solved: **17,462**

3



Property Tax/Rent Rebates Completed & Secured: **410/ \$253,332**

4



Bills Sponsored/ Co-Sponsored: **25/442**

