

## **BROOKLYN PERINATAL NETWORK, INC.**

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Executive Director: Ngozi Moses, M.Sc.

October 19, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am reaching out to you, on behalf of our community health coalition, to express our support for and to urge yours, to assure that key prevention and wellness provisions are maintained in the drafting and passage of the legislation, 'Affordable Health Choices ACT - Title III - Improving the Health of the American People legislation: Subtitle A Modernizing Disease Prevention of Public Health Systems.

We understand that 'Amendments' from HELP Committee members are due tomorrow morning and we want to make sure that you are aware of and can convey our community's strong support for the 'wellness and prevention' provisions and language, in the title and the text of the legislation. This legislation is extremely important to our community health improvement work. Please find below an introduction to our community coalition. We are depending on you to support the key provisions language proposed, that will guide policy to support our vision for and the opportunity to promote community health and wellness via a prevention approach.

The Brooklyn Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality and Family Health is over eight years old collaborative of community centered social and health service providers, other community-based organizations and residents. A key purpose of the Task Force is to provide a forum to engage community stakeholders - health and human service providers and others - in partnerships and collaborative activities to address improvement in the status of maternal, child, family and community health. The Taskforce was formed in 2000, emerging from a predecessor project consortium of state and federal funded projects that addressed maternal and child health disparities, as a community sustainability strategy. This Task Force has been very proactive in public policy advocacy and community mobilization for health action in Brooklyn communities experiencing disparities in Perinatal health outcomes. It continues to provide local city leadership, along with citywide colleagues, for the development of city and state sponsored community collaborative Initiatives to reduce Infant Mortality rates in high need neighborhoods of NYC. The Task Force is currently working in partnership with the NYC department of Health and Mental Hygiene(DOH- MH) through a City-wide Coalition to End Infant Mortality (CCEIM), to execute the city funded Brooklyn Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI).

We are also engaged with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention REACH-US Program, to reduce and eliminate disparities in infant mortality rates in a specific ethnic community. Our community-funded work has nurtured community-based participatory approaches to addressing health and disease and promoting wellness; and, it has contributed to improved outcomes in Brooklyn and in the NYC region, which has recently attracted federal interest from the MCHB.

It is with a sober recognition of the importance of our collaborative prevention and health promotion work, that we seek the supportive provisions and language which we appeal to you for regarding this legislation.

## **Building Partnerships & Networking**

Connecting Service Providers and People to Services • Promoting Maternal, Child and Family Health and Preventing Infant Death

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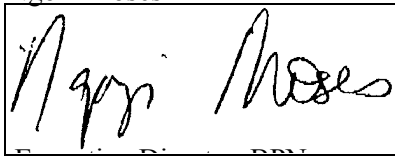
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Thank you in advance for your support.

Ngozi Moses

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Ngozi Moses".

Executive Director, BPN

And, On behalf of The Brooklyn Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality and Family Health

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