



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release: October 20, 2025

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### **Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus to Hold Hearing on Maternal Health Crisis Focus: “Saving Mothers, Saving Families”**

**Jackson, MS** — The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus will convene a public legislative hearing titled *“Saving Mothers, Saving Families: Addressing Mississippi’s Maternal Health Crisis.”* The hearing will feature health experts, advocates, and families impacted by Mississippi’s alarming maternal mortality rates—among the highest in the nation. Testimony will inform the Caucus’s 2026 Maternal Health Policy Package, aimed at saving lives and advancing equity.

Confirmed Speakers Include:

- Dr. Daniel Edney, State Health Officer, MSDH
- Dr. Michelle Owens, Chair, Mississippi Maternal Mortality Review Committee
- Dr. Marty Tucker, UMMC Chair of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Dr. Keisha Bell Catchings, UMMC Assistant Professor and OB/GYN Hospitalist
- Dr. Nakeitra Burse, SIX Dimensions Executive Director
- Cassandra Welchlin, MS Black Women’s Roundtable Executive Director
- Dr. Talya Straughter, Licensed Professional Counselor
- Monica Stinson, Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative/MS Public Health Institute

**When:** Thursday, October 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mississippi State Capitol - Room 113  
400 High Street | Jackson, MS

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