

Good afternoon, my name is Tyll Jones.

To the Montgomery County Council,

I would like to draw attention to the increasing number of the Black Maternal and infant health in Montgomery County

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, a 2017-2021 study found that Non-Hispanic Black women had the highest rates of infant mortality, preterm births and low birth weights compared to other Racial/Ethnic groups.

Social Determinants of Health have a direct relation to pregnancy outcomes. I am asking the council to assist with improving access to Food distribution, housing, education and health services by highlighting community groups such as The Benevolent Beacon Foundation's Storks' Nest, The African American Health Program and the Montgomery County Maternal Child Health Program.

These groups are actively working to service the community and create education of maternal health in the county for marginalized groups. I think a good idea would be to create a centralized web page that expecting mom's, advocates and health professionals can access to find more information on available resources in Montgomery County.

Many women are losing access to reproductive rights across the country. I am hopeful Montgomery County will remain on the right side of history, protecting its' residents and ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to accessing quality health care.

As someone who was prematurely born, I want to ensure that black mothers have accessibility to proper care and support. I am living proof that miracles in fact happen and I have the moral duty to support more Miracles in this world.