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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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October 12, 2022

PA Human Relations Commission
333 Market Street
8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Bolstein,

I am writing today on behalf of birthing people across Pennsylvania, in response to a tragic incident that took place at the Philly Pregnancy Center's Norristown location. In a viral video, a Black pregnant patient from Delaware County was harassed and berated by a staffer who was questioning the need of a doctor's note to leave work.

Throughout this legislative session, several members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly have worked tirelessly with stakeholders to reverse the trend of maternal mortality plaguing our Commonwealth and our nation. We have hosted and facilitated policy hearings and round table discussions; we have met with decision makers to impact policy shifts at the administrative level and we have worked to move legislation in the General Assembly including [HB1176](#) which would require implicit bias training as a part of continued education for healthcare professionals licensed by the PA Department of State.

While we have made great strides, there is still much work to be done and the incident that took place at the Philly Pregnancy Center Norristown location exemplifies the reasons we are not done yet – pregnant and birthing people in Pennsylvania should have safe places to seek and receive equitable care no matter their zip code, race, ethnicity, gender or income level. As shown in the [viral video](#), that is not always the case.

Considering the state of reproductive health across our nation and rising maternal mortality rates across the state, it is imperative that we do all that we can to protect and expand access to care.

At this time, we are calling on the PA Human Relations Commission to look into this incident by opening an investigation on the Philly Pregnancy Center. We must ensure that providers across our state are held accountable for their interactions with patients and ensure that they are held to a respectful and equitable standard of care.

We thank you in advance for your time and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss. We look forward to a response to this request.

Respectfully yours,



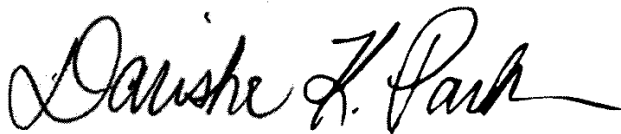
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PA Women's Health Caucus, Co-chair



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State Representative Donna Bullock, 195th Legislative District
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State Representative Darisha Parker, 198th Legislative District
PLBC Subcommittee on Women & Girls of Color, Chairwoman

CC: Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director