

**MATERNAL HEALTH  
IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**





**Dear Secretary Sebelius,**

The USA is facing a maternal health crisis. In the USA, a woman's lifetime risk of maternal death is greater than in 40 other countries. African-American women are nearly four times more likely to die than white women.

Your agency must be at the heart of efforts to improve maternal health outcomes. I urge you to work with President Obama to create an Office of Maternal Health that at a minimum will:

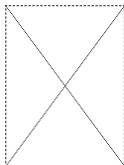
- recommend regulatory and legislative changes to ensure quality maternal care for all women;
- ensure comprehensive data collection and effective nationwide review;
- ensure access to timely prenatal care;
- issue evidence-based protocols to prevent, recognize and respond to the leading pregnancy complications;
- encourage home visits after childbirth; and
- vigorously enforce federal non-discrimination laws.

Sincerely,

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



**The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius**  
**Secretary of Health and Human Services**  
**US Department of Health and Human Services**  
**200 Independence Avenue, S.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20201**  
**USA**

*Image:* Tatia Oden French and her baby daughter, Zorah, died after an induced labour in 2001. Her mother has set up a foundation to prevent similar deaths. Photo of Tatia used with kind permission of her family.  
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