

2025 Maternal Child Health Advocate of the Year

Senator Kristen Gillibrand



NYSOA is proud to recognize Senator Gillibrand as our 2025 Maternal Child Health Advocate!

During Senator Gillibrand's tenure as a United States Senator from New York she has been a strong advocate for women's health care. She supported the expansion of Medicaid coverage for postpartum care to 12 months as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and supported making the expansion permanent in 2023 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

With approximately 20% of maternal deaths in NYS due to substance overdose or a mental health diagnosis; Senator Gillibrand sponsored the "Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Act" and fought to Include this legislation in the FY2023 Appropriations Bill. The legislation established funds for a National Maternal

Mental Health Hotline.

Senator Gillibrand has supported the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act and Moms Matter Act to provide funds for developing best safety practices, provide resources to hospitals to improve safety, and decrease maternal disparities for birthing people.

As part of the Armed Services Committee, Senator Gillibrand sponsored the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act that was signed into law in 2022. This law takes the complaints of sexual harassment or sexual abuse out of the chain of military command and into the jurisdiction of independent trained military oversight. Most recent statistics from 2023 show a decrease of 18% in sexual assault/harassment complaints from women in the military.

Recently Senator Gillibrand has proposed legislation to strengthen and expand federal research for menopause care and health care work force training with the Advancing Menopause and Mid-Life Women's Health Act. She has also been a proponent of paid family leave for parents of newborn children.

New Yorkers can count on Senator Gillibrand to support and advocate for women's health care and fairness in the workplace.

As we continue to be challenged by reductions in funding and questions about the importance of quality systems and services; and support for the clinical and community providers who work tirelessly to ensure all pregnant individuals have access to care and support; NYSOA expresses great appreciation and admiration for Senator Gillibrand for her dedication to perinatal health.