

2026 Maternal Child Health Advocate of the Year

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



NYSPA is very proud to recognize Senator Stewart-Cousins as our 2026 Maternal Child Health Advocate!

As Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, Senator Stewart-Cousins has demonstrated unwavering commitment to advancing maternal health equity and improving outcomes for women and infants across New York State. Her leadership has been instrumental in championing transformative legislation and policies that directly address the maternal health crisis, particularly the disproportionate burden of morbidity and mortality experienced by Black women and other underserved communities. Among her many contributions, Senator Stewart-Cousins has played a central leadership role in advancing key legislative efforts, including: The Momnibus Maternal Health Package, Implicit Bias Training Legislation, Expansion of Medicaid Coverage for Maternal Care, Doula Services Coverage and Workforce Expansion, Maternal Mortality Review and Data Transparency Enhancements, Paid Family Leave Expansion and Worker Protection, and Hospital Transparency and Quality Improvement Initiatives.

What distinguishes Senator Stewart-Cousins' advocacy is not only her legislative leadership, but also her willingness to draw upon personal experience to inform and humanize policy. By offering her own story, she brings urgency and authenticity to the conversation, helping to reduce stigma, elevate patient voices, and inspire meaningful, lasting change.

Through her tireless advocacy, strategic leadership, and deep commitment to justice, Senator Stewart-Cousins has made significant and unique contributions to maternal and reproductive health in New York State. Her work has advanced policies that save lives, strengthen families, and move us closer to achieving health equity.

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; NYSPA expresses great appreciation and admiration for Senator Stewart-Cousins and her dedication to perinatal health.