



Congressman Dwight Evans * D-PA-3rd District



Congressman Dwight Evans represents Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, which includes Northwest and West Philadelphia and parts of North, South and Center City Philadelphia. He was first elected in a special election in November 2016. Before that, he served as a state representative for 36 years, and earned a reputation as a pragmatic leader who knows how to put public policy above politics and make ideas matter. He made history in 1990 when he became the first African-American chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a position he held for

two decades.

Throughout his public service career, Congressman Evans has worked tirelessly to expand and broaden access to economic and educational opportunities for all Philadelphians. He currently serves on the influential Ways and Means Committee, which handles tax, trade, Social Security and Medicare legislation. In his first term, he had one of his bills passed and signed into law, a true accomplishment for a freshman in the minority party. That law is designed to reduce costs for small business owners who apply for a loan through the Small Business Administration. He also hosted a roundtable in Philadelphia on small business issues with Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee Nydia Velazquez.

In his first term, he also supported a criminal justice reform bill which became law, the First Step Act. His efforts have also included hosting a roundtable on the subject in Philadelphia with Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee Jerry Nadler. Congressman Evans is also a member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force and has co-lead legislation such as the VICTIM Act that would provide \$1 billion in federal funding to solve more shooting cases and provide more help for victims.



Congressional Briefing Speaker Bio's

Congressman Evans continues to work to advance priorities such as protecting health care and reducing health disparities, and advocate for gun reform, criminal justice reform and economic development, including supporting small businesses. He is proud of his votes for landmark new laws signed by President Biden, including the American Rescue Plan; the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; the Inflation Reduction Act that has capped the cost of insulin for seniors on Medicare Part D and is making the nation's largest-ever investment in addressing climate change; and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major federal gun-safety law to pass in nearly 30 years.

A longtime resident of the West Oak Lane neighborhood, he is a graduate of Germantown High School, the Community College of Philadelphia and LaSalle University. Congressman Evans will keep working to rebuild Philadelphia, and America, block by block!



Representative Gina H. Curry * D-PA 164th District



State Representative Gina H. Curry was elected in a November 2021 special election to represent the 164th Legislative District in Delaware County.

Representative Curry serves on several committees & Caucuses including but not limited to:

Appropriations, Children & Youth, Education, Transportation, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, Southeast Delegation, PA Women's Commission and, Co-Chair of the Women's Health Caucus. Prior to being elected state representative, Gina worked as a Diversity Equity and

Inclusion/Racial Equity consultant and trainer, as a small business owner of Coach Your Vision LLC, and diligently served in many community-based roles including serving as vice president of the Upper Darby School Board. She brings to Harrisburg a strong understanding of community needs, fairness and grassroots advocacy in education, women's health, and real estate/housing. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice with a concentration on Sociology from St. Joseph's University. She also has experience in the behavioral health field as a clinical supervisor, behavioral specialist, and therapeutic consultant to children and families.



Congressional Briefing Speaker Bio's

Jenné Johns, MPH * President- Once Upon A Premie, Inc.



Jenné Johns, MPH a Philadelphia native, health equity thought leader, author, speaker, and advocate for Black Birthing Women. While advocating for the needs of her own son born premature, Jenné wrote, *Once Upon a Premie*, the first of its kind children's book written for parents of preemies while in the NICU. Currently, Jenné is President of Once Upon A Premie a non-profit organization on a mission to drive equitable health outcomes for one million Black Premie Families.

A graduate of the Disparities Leadership Program at Harvard University Medical School, Jenné has over a decade experience advocating for policy, and community changes to improve health equity and health outcomes for Black communities. She also led quality improvement and health equity transformation strategies with the nations largest managed care and commercial health insurance companies. Jenné holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from Temple University and a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. It is Jenne's life mission to see a world free of bias toward black birthing women and NICU families, and this journey is just getting started!



Congressional Briefing Speaker Bio's

Jaye Wilson, LPN * Founder- Melinated Moms



Jatesha "Jaye" Madden-Wilson is a Black Woman, Mom, Social Entrepreneur, Social Impact Speaker, Maternal Health Advocate, Published Author and Self-sufficiency Coach. Jaye has created big strides in advocacy for women of color most notably with the First Lady and Governor of New Jersey as a public speaker and maternal health advocate for Nurture NJ with the Black Maternal Health crisis. In her professional career as a Community Health Nurse, she provided clinical care and moved into clinical operations as the Nursing Operational Manager for

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, a Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that specializes in providing care for the LGBTQ+ community. Jaye received her first opportunity in advocacy while at Callen Lorde and began lobbying in Washington DC, Albany NY and Trenton, NJ as a community advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. While in these positions, she saw the importance of how community advocacy and engagement created better physical, emotional and mental health outcomes for its people. After 10+ years at Callen-Lorde, Jaye went through several transitions, both personally and professionally, which sparked the idea of creating a community of support that changed the narrative of motherhood, sisterhood and womanhood. Starting as a small mommy meetup group, Melinated Moms quickly grew into a health equity-focused women empowerment organization that changed the way community engagement related to maternal health. As her organization has grown, she has incorporated the additional titles of published author, and she was recently appointed by the Governor of New Jersey as a Special State Officer for the New Jersey Maternal Health Quality Collaborative.



Congressional Briefing Speaker Bio's

Melinated Moms is a MOM Profit™ – a community-centered women empowerment social enterprise supporting moms and women to become better versions of themselves through advocacy, education, awareness and entrepreneurship. We provide support for our community by creating opportunities for moms and women across the Melinated Spectrum to connect, engage and empower each other with the right support behind them. We primarily work with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to curate community engagement opportunities that learn from the communities that we support; creating trust and real-time change with the community members as the primary stakeholders and changemakers.

In the last 5+ years, our reach has grown from local to international in less than one year. Through that exponential growth, Jaye has learned the value of Key Community Partnerships to build the capacity of what Melinated Moms can do and how we can change the narrative of health equity across all phases of conception. Melinated Moms has reached over 10,000 people worldwide through her virtual and in-person events and has created a reputation for her organization that is trusted for its authenticity and support. The biggest increase in engagement came during the COVID-19 pandemic when Jaye decided to pivot the business structure from in-person only to virtual, garnering a 200% increase in engagement. Melinated Moms continue to connect and empower moms, women and birthing people throughout the Melinated Spectrum to find their power and purpose in their lives.

Jaye is the proud mother of 2 young girls, Nadiyah and Ava, who continue to move and motivate her to create a space where women's rights are acknowledged and not silenced.



Kanika A Harris, PhD, MPH * Senior Director of Maternal Health Black Women's Health Imperative



Dr. Harris currently serves as the senior director of maternal health for the Black Women's Health Imperative. She is a behavioral health scientist, with a special focus on health equity, maternal health and women's health. She is a mother of 3, near miss survivor, doula, and birth justice advocate. She also serves as the Maternal Health Equity Advisor for the State of Maryland and the public health expert for the lactation commission in Washington DC.

She received her master's degree in public health and international development from Morehouse School of Medicine and her PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan.