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Ashley Randolph
Executive Director
GLO Preemies

Dear Fellow Citizens,

In observance of Black History Month, a period where we honor the past and forge paths for a better future, I write to you with a matter of both heart and urgency. As the Executive Director of GLO Preemies, it is my duty to highlight the challenges and disparities faced by Black families in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), particularly regarding the involvement of Child Protective Services (CPS).

Recent findings, such as those from Witt et al. (2022), reveal the perceived racial biases affecting the quality of care received by Black mothers with preterm infants in NICU settings ([Witt et al., 2022](#)). While these studies initiate crucial conversations, there is a noticeable gap in research specifically addressing the statistical impact of CPS on Black NICU families. This gap signifies a broader issue – the lack of comprehensive understanding and support tailored to the unique challenges faced by these families.

We hypothesize that a reduction in unnecessary CPS interactions, coupled with an increase in supportive services tailored to the needs of Black NICU families, could lead to significantly better outcomes. These outcomes may include reduced stress and trauma for the parents, improved parental involvement in infant care, and overall better health outcomes for the infants. Enhanced support services could provide culturally sensitive care, address specific social and emotional needs, and offer guidance through the complexities of NICU care and beyond.

This Black History Month, let us commit to not only honoring the past but also to shaping a more equitable future. We urge healthcare providers, researchers, and policymakers to recognize the importance of this hypothesis and to work towards validating and implementing it through research, policy changes, and practice.

We call upon you, our community, to support this vision by advocating for research, policy reform, and by providing support to organizations working directly with NICU families.

Together, we can create a healthcare environment where every family's journey in the NICU is supported with understanding, compassion, and equity.

Thank you for joining us in this vital endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ashley Randolph
Executive Director, GLO Premies