The Midwives of Color Council of the American College of Nurse Midwives denounces the disrespectful, callous care given to The Wells Family and Jones Family and support diversification of the workforce including Midwives of Color as a response to the maternal health crisis.

Finally, the world now sees what has been stated repeatedly re: the disrespect experienced by Black women in the United States when they are experiencing pregnancy labor and birth. Not only do Black women in the United States experience 3x the death of White women, but as per the most recent Centers for Disease Control data (2023), women from multiracial backgrounds experience mistreatment, with one out of three (30%) Black, Hispanic and multiracial women reporting disrespectful behavior. Disrespectful behavior has been identified as:

- Receiving no response to requests for help.
- Being shouted at or scolded.
- Not having their physical privacy protected.
- Being threatened with withholding treatment or made to accept unwanted treatment.

Unfortunately, the videos recording the experiences of the Wells and Jones family support the existence of the above behaviors.

Due to the disrespect, 45% of women report holding back or not sharing their questions during pregnancy and birth. The Midwives of Color Council of the American College of Nurse Midwives supports respectful care for all women throughout their life cycle, and particularly during pregnancy, labor and birth. The also support the diversification of the workforce including the increase in the number of Midwives of Color to address the maternal mortality crisis in the United States. Studies indicate that racially concordant providers result in better health outcomes. Decades of studies indicate that midwifery care will help to address the maternal outcomes

1. https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/respectful-maternity-care/index.html
2. Moore C, Coates E, Watson A, de Heer R, McLeod A, Prudhomme A. "It's Important to Work with People that Look Like Me": Black Patients' Preferences for Patient-Provider Race Concordance. J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2023 Oct;10(5):2552-2564. doi: 10.1007/s40615-022-01435-y. Epub 2022 Nov 7. Erratum in: J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2023 Oct;10(5):2614. doi: 10.1007/s40615-022-01489-y. PMID: 36344747; PMCID: PMC9640880.
3. https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/may/expanding-role-midwives-address-maternal-health-crisis