

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, **we urge you to provide \$100 million for the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies (SET-NET)** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding would enable SET-NET to reach additional jurisdictions, track more threats, and lead the nationwide preparedness and response needed to protect pregnant women and infants in the United States from emerging and re-emerging public health threats. Further, we recommend that you include the following bill report language:

Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies — The committee includes \$100,000,000 to expand CDC's Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mother and Babies funded entities to additional threats and additional U.S. States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and tribal entities. The program supports CDC's collaboration with State, tribal, territorial, and local health departments to monitor the impact of emerging health threats on pregnant women and their babies and inform public health and clinical decision-making to improve the health of pregnant people and infants.

The United States continues to grapple with ongoing public health emergencies (PHEs) – from local PHEs as a result of severe storms and flooding to the ongoing national opioid crisis PHE – that threaten the health of all, especially at-risk populations such as pregnant women and infants. Building on an innovative mom-baby linked data collection approach developed in response to the Zika outbreak, SET-NET leverages existing data sources to enable CDC and health departments to detect the impact of new and emerging health threats on pregnant women and

their babies. SET-NET helps families, health care providers, public health professionals, and policymakers take action to save lives, reduce risk, and improve the health of pregnant women and infants.

In FY 2025, SET-NET provided support to 26 state, local, and territorial health departments to monitor the impact of exposure to syphilis, hepatitis C, dengue, and congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) on pregnant women and their babies. With sufficient funding, SET-NET could expand to support up to 64 state, local, and territorial health departments develop or strengthen their capacity and infrastructure to collect, analyze, and report data on existing and emerging threats to pregnant women and their babies.

The public health data infrastructure and surveillance systems established under SET-NET have contributed data critical to public health responses to new and emerging threats, including:

- Identification of pregnancy as a risk factor for severe COVID-19 and that a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy increased the risk for preterm birth and stillbirth, underscoring the need for infection prevention and supporting a recommendation of vaccination during pregnancy;
- Identification of a link between substance use during pregnancy and infants born with congenital syphilis, highlighting the need for syphilis screening and treatment at every health encounter during pregnancy for those using substances; and
- Identification of missed opportunities to treat pregnant women with a hepatitis C virus infection prior to pregnancy, preventing transmission to the infant.

Investing in this sustainable framework for rapid, evidence-based data collection will ensure that the United States is prepared to meet the unique needs of pregnant women and infants during public health emergencies. Thank you for your consideration of this **request to provide \$100 million for the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies program** to fully fund a national preparedness and response network focused preventing or reducing threats to pregnant women, mothers, and infants.

Sincerely,

Aaliyah in Action
Academic Pediatric Association
Access Quality LLC
AFE Foundation
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Birth Centers
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Heart Association
American Nurses Association

American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Microbiology
APS Foundation of America
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Baby Cafe USA
BirthRoot Community Doula
Black Midwifery Collective
BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance)
Breastfeeding Family Friendly Communities
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials
Comagine Health
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Every Mother Counts
Families USA
Family Voices National
FASD United
First Candle
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
HealthConnect One
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies - The Montana Coalition, Inc.
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Institute for Child Success
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement (PQI)
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jace's Journey
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Kentucky Health Departments Association
La Leche League of Hendry County
Lifeline for Families Center and Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School
March of Dimes
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

Maryland Association of County Health Officers
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
MomsRising
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Nurses Association
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Healthy Start Association (NHSA)
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
NC Public Health Association
New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
Nightingale Health
Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region
Parents as Teachers National Center
Pediatric Policy Council
Perinatal Support Washington
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Postpartum Support International of Delaware
Postpartum Support International - Iowa
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
PSI-IL Chapter
Reproductive Freedom for All
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Safe States Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The Arc Michigan
The Children's Home Society of New Jersey
The Honeycomb House
The National Partnership for Women and Families
The Parents' Place of MD
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation
The University at Albany Maternal and Child Health Program

Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture
Washington State Public Health Association
ZERO TO THREE