March 23, 2023

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
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 Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Departments of 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 individuals 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, including COVID-19, on pregnant people 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 that put our most vulnerable populations, including pregnant individuals and infants, at risk. SET-NET is an innovative data collection system that links maternal exposures during pregnancy to health outcomes for babies. Building on a 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 individuals and their babies. Findings from SET-NET help families, health care providers, public health professionals, and policymakers take action to save lives, reduce risk, and improve the health of pregnant individuals and infants.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), SET-NET provided support to 29 state, local, and territorial health departments to monitor the impact on pregnant individuals and their babies of exposure to Zika, syphilis, hepatitis C, COVID-19, and, new in FY23, congenital cytomegalovirus. With sufficient funding, SET-NET could expand to support up to 64 state, local, and territorial health departments as they collect, analyze, and report data on existing and emerging threats to pregnant individuals and their babies and broaden the scope of the program to conduct stillbirth surveillance and examine environmental hazards such as lead or perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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 risk for preterm birth and stillbirth, underscoring the need for infection prevention and supporting a recommendation of vaccination during pregnancy;
- SET-NET data collected between 2018 and 2021 found 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
- An analysis of SET-NET indicated missed opportunities to treat pregnant individuals 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 individuals 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 in Fiscal Year 2024** to fully fund a national preparedness and response network focused on pregnant individuals and infants.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
African American Mayors Association
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
Alliance for Black NICU Families
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Alliance for Innovation on Maternal
    Health
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Heart Association
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
American Nurses Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Public Health Association
APS Foundation of America, Inc
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Black Mamas Matter Alliance
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Every Mother Counts
Families USA
Family Voices
FASD United
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florida State University College of Medicine
Futures Without Violence
GLO Preemies
HealthConnect One
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Hyperemesis Education and Research (HER) Foundation
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement
Lamaze International
Lifeline for Families and the Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School
March for Moms
March of Dimes
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Healthy Start Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First
National WIC Association
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Postpartum Support International (PSI)
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation
PreemieWorld, LLC
Prevent Blindness
ROOTT
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for Women's Health Research
Spina Bifida Association
Start Early
Tara Hansen Foundation
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation
Trust for America's Health
University of Illinois School of Public Health
ZERO TO THREE