

January 7, 2025

Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned 261 organizations, we write to express our strong support for swiftly enacting into law the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (S.1562/H.R.1197)—vital legislation to reauthorize and expand research, education and intervention activities related to preterm birth—and the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act (PMDA) (S.2621/H.R.1909), which will strengthen federal support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs). Both bills passed the full House and Senate HELP Committee by near-unanimous votes during the 118th Congress.

The U.S. has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world. Each year, more than 30,000 women experience life-threatening complications during labor and delivery, and in 2024, nearly 700 women died due to pregnancy-related causes. Additionally, the U.S. preterm birth rate has steadily increased since 2014 to 10.4% in 2024, receiving a D+ on the annual March of Dimes [Report Card](#). This increase reflects nearly 380,000 preterm births. Preterm birth also accounts for 35.8% of infant deaths in the U.S., and its annual societal economic cost, including medical care, education, and lost productivity is an estimated \$25.2 billion. Southern and Midwestern states are particularly affected by worsening preterm birth and maternal health trends.

Although there are some clinical predictors of preterm birth, all pregnant individuals are at risk for preterm birth. Infants born prematurely have increased risks of morbidity and death throughout childhood, especially during the first year of life. Long-term health impacts include intellectual and developmental delays, behavioral problems, neurological disorders, visual and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, and respiratory insufficiency or intestinal insufficiency.¹

While many risk factors associated with preterm birth have been identified, the “biological basis for many of these risk factors and the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood.”² The PREEMIE Act will help reduce preterm birth, prevent newborn death and disability caused by preterm birth, expand research into the causes of preterm birth, and promote the development, availability, and uses of evidence-based standards of care for pregnant women.

The PREEMIE Act supports data linkages to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) highly successful Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). PRAMS collects site-specific, population-based data tracking maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy on 81% of births and is used by researchers and state, territorial, and local governments to plan and review programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and infants. This legislation will also provide for a new study on the costs, impact of non-medical factors, gaps in public health programs that lead to prematurity, and calls for recommendations to prevent preterm birth.

The Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, passed in 2018, provides federal support for MMRCs. These committees are essential as we work to protect the lives and health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Specifically, the bill would reauthorize,

¹ Prediction and prevention of spontaneous preterm birth. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 234. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol* 2021;138:e65–90.

² Rubens C, Sadovsky Y, LMuglia L, et al. Prevention of preterm birth: Harnessing science to address the global epidemic. *Science Translational Medicine*. 2014; 6(262):262sr5. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3009871.

through 2030, federal support for states to collect and analyze data on every maternal death to identify policy solutions to prevent future, preventable deaths and address disparities in maternal health outcomes. This legislation would also require the CDC to work in partnership with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to disseminate best practices for preventing maternal mortality to hospitals, physician practices, and other healthcare providers.

Populated by representatives in public health, obstetrics and gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, nursing, midwifery, forensic pathology, mental and behavioral health, patient advocacy groups, and community-based organizations, MMRCs are tasked with identifying maternal deaths, analyzing factors that contributed to those deaths and translating the lessons learned into policy changes. CDC currently supports MMRCs in 46 states and six territories under the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) Program.

MMRCs have been instrumental in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity in the U.S. by providing detailed, unbiased reviews of pregnancy-related deaths, identifying preventable factors, and informing targeted interventions. MMRCs are a vital component to preventing many of the 87% of pregnancy-related deaths the CDC identifies as preventable.³ Continued financial support and technical assistance, data transparency, and comprehensive reviews are indispensable to preserving and enhancing their positive impact on maternal health outcomes.

We look forward to working with you this year to advance these two critical pieces of legislation. For more information, please contact Andrew Fullerton (afullerton@marchofdimes.org).

Sincerely,

National Governors Association
2 Degrees Foundation
4Kira4Moms
A Better Balance
AdvaMed
Advocate Health
AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Alliance for Black NICU Families
Alliance of Community Health Plans
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Heart Association
American Medical Women's Association

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Preventing pregnancy-related deaths. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/preventing-pregnancy-related-deaths/index.html>

American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Anese B. Consulting
AngelEye Health
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Apple Seeds, Inc
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Birth Center Equity
Black Women Do VBAC/ Bold Doula
Bluestone Counseling Group PLLC
Bobbie
Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network
California Chapter of Postpartum Support International
California Children's Hospital Association
California State University, Sacramento
Calming Nature Doula Service & Center Inc.
Catholic Health Association of the United States
CDH International
Center For Civic And Public Policy Improvement
Center for the American Family
Centering Healthcare Institute
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Cerebral Palsy Foundation
Chamber of Mothers
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Children's Hospital Association
Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign, Inc.
CHS buffalo
Coalition on Human Needs
COCOLIFE.BLACK
Concord Therapy LLC
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Discovering Peace Counseling Services
Dsm-firmenich na
Eli Collins Foundation For Premature Babies
Elite Change
EverThrive Illinois
Every Mother Counts
Expect
Faith in Public Life
Families USA
Family Health Initiatives

Family Voices National
Family Voices NJ
Family-Centered Care Taskforce
Fibroid Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foreground Capital
Futures Without Violence
Galactosemia Foundation
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Genetic Alliance
Georgia Black Doula Network
Gerontological Society of America
GLO Preemies
Gold Coast Doulas
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
Hall+istics
Hand to Hold
Handful of Pearls Birthing Services
Happy Thoughts Mental Health
Harlum Health Consulting
Haven Midwifery Collective
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthy Birth Day Inc.
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies- The Montana Coalition
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade
HealthyWomen
Houston's Lift Off
Hyperemesis Education and Research Foundation
Illinois Public Health Association
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infinity Doula Services, LLC
Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jace's Journey
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
Jennifer Aist Lactation Services
Journeys Therapy Services
Kaleida Health Family Planning Center
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kasey Mathews Coaching
Kindred 360
Konnnected Thru 22
LA Best Babies Network
La Leche League Alliance
Labor of Love Consulting
Lakeshore Foundation
League of Women Voters Metropolitan Des Moines
Leap of Faith Family to Family Support
Legacy Community Health
Lily's Hope Foundation
Looms For Lupus

Magnolia Medical Foundation
Maine Medical Association
Majaica
Make It Perfectly Clear
Mama Glow
Mama to Mama
March of Dimes
Mass. PPD Fund
Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health
Massachusetts Section AWHONN
Maternal and Child Health Access
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
MCH Impact Partners
MEAC
Mental Health America of Ohio
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Million Lives Fund
Minus 9 to 5, Virginia Health Science at Old Dominion University
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
Mobile Healthcare Association
Mocha Moms, Inc.
Mom Congress
MomME
MomsRising
My Little Angels
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association to Advance Black Birth
National CMV Foundation
National Coalition for Infant Health
National Diaper Bank Network
National Grange
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
National League for Nursing
National Perinatal Association
NEC Society
Nemours Children's Health
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Jersey Citizen Action
New York State Perinatal Association
NGHS
NICU Parent Network
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Novocuff
Nurture KC

Ob Hospitalist Group
Oklahoma Healthcare Authority
Once Upon A Preemie, Inc.
Paid Leave for All
Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey
People Power United
Perigee Fund
Philips North America
Policy Institute for Community Birth and Midwifery
Politivist Action PAC and Politivist Power
Postpartum Support International-NE chapter
Postpartum Support International
Postpartum Support Virginia
Preeclampsia Foundation
PREEMIEWORLD FOUNDATION INC
Prismatic Venus Fitness
Project NICU
Project Sweet Peas
Prolacta Bioscience
Protecting Reproductive Health
PSI-MD
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy
PXE International
Raydiant Oximetry
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Rising Sun Therapy
Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative
Saul's Light
Serene Solutions Counseling & Consulting Services
Serving at-risk families everywhere Inc.
Seven Starling
SHE MATTERS & COCNJ
Sista Girl Birth Initiative
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
SiX Action
Six Dimensions
Small Steps Giant Sleeps: Infant & Child Sleep Education
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Spina Bifida Association
Symonette Strategies & Solutions
Synova Associates
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Women's Political Caucus
Texans Care for Children
The Amandla Group
The Black Maternal Health Federal Policy Collective
The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation

The Cooperative
The HIVE Maternal Wellness Center
The Honeycomb House
The Melanin Fluent Maternal Health Foundation
The National Partnership for Women and Families
The Postpartum Adjustment Center
The QDL Group, LLC
The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence
The Skylar Project
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The Tender Foundation
The tiny miracles foundation
The Urban Child Institute
The Women's Fund Miami-Dade
TOOTRiS
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Tourette Association of America
Traditional Home Health Care
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
University of Utah Stillbirth Center of Excellence
Urban Baby Beginnings
Wild Lavender Counseling
Wilson County Women's Coalition
Womb Wisdom Wellness LLC
Womb Wisdom Wellness LLC
Women Employed
Works of Faith Wellness and Consultation, LLC
Yolanda Ramos LLC
ZERO TO THREE
Zetas in Action
Zoe's resort of Georgia