

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth:

The undersigned organizations dedicated to the health and wellbeing of mothers, children, and families write to express our support for the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA) Act. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation to reverse the troubling trajectory in the rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States.

Tragically, the United States ranks far below other developed nations in preventing pregnancy-related deaths and serious adverse outcomes. Each year, nearly 700 women die during or within a year of the end of their pregnancy due to pregnancy-related or pregnancy-associated complications. An additional 50,000 women experience severe complications that can negatively impact their long-term health. Black women are three to four times more likely to die of causes related to pregnancy than their white peers, a disparity that has both persisted and widened over time. Studies estimate that more than half of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, and approximately half of maternal injuries could be reduced or eliminated with better care and enhanced maternal mortality data. Unfortunately, the current system fails to address the medical and social determinant factors that contribute to such high maternal mortality rates within the United States compared to other high-income countries.

The MOMMA Act seeks to address this issue through a comprehensive set of policies to improve data collection, disseminate information on effective interventions, and expand access to health care and social services for postpartum women. The legislation would bolster federal efforts to support states in collecting, standardizing, and sharing maternal mortality and morbidity data. In addition, it authorizes and expands existing federal grant programs dedicated to scaling best practices to improve maternity care. The MOMMA Act would also permit states to expand coverage under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) through a longer post-partum period for women. Finally, the legislation would ensure improved access to culturally-competent care training and workforce practices throughout the care delivery system.

Our organizations are proud to support the MOMMA Act, and we look forward to working with you to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families. If we can provide more information, please contact Rebecca Abbott, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs for Public Health at March of Dimes ([rabbott@marchofdimes.org](mailto:rabbott@marchofdimes.org) or 202.292.2750).

Sincerely,  
1,000 Days  
2020 Mom  
Academy of Lactation Policy & Practice  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFE Foundation  
American Academy of Family Physicians

American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Medical Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine/Shady Grove Fertility  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)  
Black Mamas Community Collective  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Community Catalyst  
Every Mother Counts  
Expecting Health at Genetic Alliance  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Hand to Hold  
Healthy Children Project, Inc.  
HER Foundation  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
Lamaze International  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Safety Foundation  
Mom Congress  
MomsRising  
National Accreta Foundation  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Patient Safety Movement Foundation  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Power to Decide  
Preeclampsia Foundation

Prevention Institute  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Save 100 Babies  
Save The Mommies  
Sepsis Alliance  
Shades of Blue Project  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Spina Bifida Association  
Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
The PPROM Foundation  
The Shane Foundation