

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

Our organizations commend the Congressional support to advance legislation – H.R. 1318/S. 1112 – to reduce maternal mortality in the United States. We urge you to move swiftly to bring the legislation for a vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate before the end of this calendar year.

Our nation faces a growing crisis in maternal health. More women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States than in any other developed country, and the rate of maternal deaths continues to rise. Major disparities in maternal mortality exist, with black women three to four times more likely than white women to die during pregnancy or shortly after birth. Moreover, for every maternal death that occurs, an estimated 100 other women suffer severe complications of pregnancy or childbirth. We must act now – in the 115th Congress – to reverse this trend and save mothers' lives.

This important legislation is the beginning of a longer-term solution toward eradicating preventable maternal death and improving maternal and infant health in the United States. The legislation will accelerate progress toward ensuring that every state has a high-functioning process for identifying the causes of maternal mortality and working across communities to implement solutions.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has already unanimously approved S. 1112. The leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee expressed bipartisan support during a September 2018 hearing on H.R. 1318 for passing the bill this year. Congress is on the cusp of sending legislation to the President's desk that will equip the United States with the tools it needs to tackle this problem and move the country forward in addressing the growing maternal mortality crisis.

We strongly urge you to bring H.R. 1318/S. 1112 to the House and Senate floor for a full vote before the end of this calendar year.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days  
2020 Mom  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFE Foundation  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians & Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Amnesty International USA  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
CityMatCH  
Day Before Birth  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Every Mother Counts  
Expecting Health at Genetic Alliance  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Hand to Hold  
HealthConnect One  
HER Foundation  
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
Johnson & Johnson  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lamaze International  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Safety Foundation  
Miracle Babies

MomsRising  
NAPHSIS  
National Accreta Foundation  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Health Law Program  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National WIC Association  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Parents as Teachers  
Patient Safety Movement Foundation  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Power to Decide  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
PremieWorld, LLC  
Prevention Institute  
Safe States Alliance  
Save The Mommies Inc  
Seleni Institute  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
The 2 Degrees Foundation  
The National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
The Shane Foundation  
The Tara Hansen Foundation  
The Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
ZERO TO THREE

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions