



November 20, 2019

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Engel and Bucshon:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express our support for the *Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act* (HR 4995).

The *Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019* would improve data collection in rural communities, support the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, and promote perinatal quality collaborative activities. The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote best practices to reduce and prevent implicit bias.

Currently, the United States has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the developed world, and women of color and those in rural areas are at highest risk. Family physicians are well-positioned to address this issue due to their training, experience in managing chronic health conditions and commitment to serving diverse patient populations.

The AAFP is committed to helping improve maternal health outcomes. This year, the AAFP created a working collaborative involving key stakeholders to explore solutions and strategies to address this important topic. The collaborative is focused on evaluating evidence-based methods, implicit bias and disparities, improving education for residents and practice family physicians, and ways to address the growing loss of obstetrical services in rural areas. There is ample evidence that improving health care protocols can help save women's lives.

Again, we are pleased to support the *Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act*. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance maternal health proposals. For more information, contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

John S. Cullen, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

Cc: House Energy & Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone and Ranking Member Greg Walden

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