



July 30, 2020

The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kaine and Murkowski:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 136,700 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express our support for the Mother and Newborn Success Act (S. 4269).

The *Mother and Newborn Success Act* is an important bill because it focuses on reducing both maternal and infant mortality by increasing access to patient-centered care and strengthens important programs, as such as Rural Maternity and Obstetric Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program within the Health Resources and Services Administration. The legislation also supports the dissemination about maternal health warnings and on essential vaccination information to the public and health care professionals.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that the maternal mortality rates for Black women and Native America women are more than two times higher than the rate for white women. Infant mortality rates are also unacceptably high.

The AAFP supports the Mother and Newborn Success Act because it focuses on the continuum of care in ways that have significant potential for promoting child and maternal health. This two-generation approach has shown to be effective for improving health outcomes. Achieving birth equity is a moral and ethical imperative for our great nation.

Again, the AAFP appreciates your leadership on this important issue. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay (sclay@aafp.org) in the AAFP's Government Relations Division.

Sincerely,

John S. Cullen, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair
Valdez, AK

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