

Date

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned 218 organizations, we write to express our strong support for 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 of these bills passed the House and Senate HELP Committee by near unanimous votes during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The U.S. has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world. Annually, more than 50,000 women experience life-threatening complications due to labor and delivery. In 2023, 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 2023, garnering a D+ on the March of Dimes' annual [Report Card](#). This represents an increase to over 370,000 preterm births. Preterm birth also accounts for 35.8% of infant deaths in the U.S. and the annual societal economic cost (medical, educational, and lost productivity) is an estimated \$25.2 billion. Southern and Midwestern states are particularly impacted by both adverse 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.”<sup>2</sup> 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.

Among the programs authorized by the PREEMIE Act is 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

The Preventing Maternal Deaths Act was originally passed in 2018 to provide federal support for maternal mortality review committees. MMRCs are essential tools as we continue the work to preserve the lives and health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Specifically, the bill would reauthorize, 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 health care 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 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 US 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 80% of pregnancy-related deaths the CDC identifies as preventable.<sup>3</sup> 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](mailto:afullerton@marchofdimes.org)).

Sincerely,

2 Degrees Foundation

4Kira4Moms

A Better Balance

AdvaMed

AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Alliance for Black NICU Families

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

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<sup>3</sup> 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 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  
American Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric 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 Community Health Plans  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
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  
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  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign, Inc.  
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  
Elite Change  
EverThrive Illinois  
Every Mother Counts  
Expect  
Families USA  
Family Health Initiatives  
Family Voices National  
Family Voices NJ  
Family-Centered Care Taskforce  
Fibroid Foundation  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
Galactosemia Foundation  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
Genetic Alliance

Georgia Black Doula Network  
Gerontological Society of America  
GLO Premies  
Gold Coast Doulas  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Hall+istics  
Hand to Hold  
Handful of Pearls Birthing Services  
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  
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  
Jennifer Aist Lactation Services  
Journeys Therapy Services  
Kaleida Health Family Planning Center  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition  
Kasey Mathews Coaching  
Kindred 360  
Konnected Thru 22

LA Best Babies Network  
La Leche League Alliance  
La Leche League Alliance  
Labor of Love Consulting  
Lakeshore Foundation  
League of Women Voters Metropolitan Des Moines  
Leap of afaith Family to Family Support  
Leap of afaith Family to Family Support  
Legacy Community Health  
Lily's Hope Foundation  
Looms For Lupus  
Magnolia Medical Foundation  
Maine Medical Association  
Majaica  
Mama Glow  
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  
Minus 9 to 5, Virginia Health Science at Old Dominion University  
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable  
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative  
Mocha Moms

Mom Congress

MomME

MomsRising

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives

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 CMV Foundation

National Coalition for Infant Health

National Diaper Bank Network

National Grange

National Hispanic Health Foundation

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

Nurture KC

Ob Hospitalist Group

Oklahoma Healthcare Authority

Once Upon A Premie, 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

Post Partum Support International-NE chapter

Postpartum Support International

Postpartum Support Virginia

Preeclampsia Foundation

PREMIEWORLD FOUNDATION INC

Project NICU

Project Sweet Peas

Prolacta Bioscience

Protecting Reproductive Health

PSI

PSI-MD

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy

PXE International

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.

SHE MATTERS & COCNJ

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

Tennessee Health Care Campaign

The Black Maternal Health Federal Policy Collective

The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation

The Cooperative

The HIVE Maternal Wellness Center

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

TOOTRiS

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Traditional Home Health Care

U.S. Breastfeeding Committee

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

Urban Baby Beginnings

Wild Lavender Counseling

Womb Wisdom Wellness LLC

Women Employed

Works of Faith Wellness and Consultation, LLC

Yolanda Ramos LLC

ZERO TO THREE