

December 1, 2025

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the undersigned 251 organizations, we write to express our strong support for swiftly enacting into law 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 US has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world. Annually, more than 30,000 women experience life-threatening complications during labor and delivery. In 2024, 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 2024, garnering a D+ on the March of Dimes' annual [Report Card](#). This represents an increase to nearly 380,000 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 87% 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,

National Governors Association  
2 Degrees Foundation  
4Kira4Moms  
A Better Balance  
AdvaMed  
Advocate Health  
AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
Alliance for Black NICU Families  
Alliance of Community Health Plans  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus  
American Association of Birth Centers

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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 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 Psychological 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 Black Cardiologists  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
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  
California Children's Hospital Association  
California State University, Sacramento  
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  
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Children's Specialty Care Coalition  
Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign, Inc.  
CHS buffalo  
Coalition on Human Needs  
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  
Eli Collins Foundation For Premature Babies

Elite Change  
EverThrive Illinois  
Every Mother Counts  
Expect  
Faith in Public Life  
Families USA  
Family Health Initiatives  
Family Voices National  
Family Voices NJ  
Family-Centered Care Taskforce  
Fibroid Foundation  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Foreground Capital  
Futures Without Violence  
Galactosemia Foundation  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
Genetic Alliance  
Georgia Black Doula Network  
Gerontological Society of America  
GLO Preemies  
Gold Coast Doulas  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Hall+istics  
Hand to Hold  
Handful of Pearls Birthing Services  
Happy Thoughts Mental Health  
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  
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade  
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  
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.  
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  
Labor of Love Consulting  
Lakeshore Foundation  
League of Women Voters Metropolitan Des Moines  
Leap of Faith Family to Family Support  
Legacy Community Health  
Lily's Hope Foundation  
Looms For Lupus  
Magnolia Medical Foundation  
Maine Medical Association  
Majaica  
Make It Perfectly Clear  
Mama Glow  
Mama to Mama  
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  
Million Lives Fund  
Minus 9 to 5, Virginia Health Science at Old Dominion University  
Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable  
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative  
Mobile Healthcare Association  
Mocha Moms, Inc.  
Mom Congress  
MomME  
MomsRising  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
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 Association to Advance Black Birth  
National CMV Foundation  
National Coalition for Infant Health  
National Diaper Bank Network  
National Grange  
National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)  
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  
Novocuff  
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  
PREEMIEWORLD FOUNDATION INC  
Project NICU  
Project Sweet Peas  
Prolacta Bioscience  
Protecting Reproductive Health  
PSI-MD  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy  
PXE International  
Raydiant Oximetry  
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.  
Seven Starling  
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  
Synova Associates  
Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
Tennessee Women's Political Caucus  
Texans Care for Children  
The Black Maternal Health Federal Policy Collective  
The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation  
The Cooperative  
The HIVE Maternal Wellness Center  
The Honeycomb House  
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  
The Women's Fund Miami-Dade  
TOOTRiS  
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.  
Tourette Association of America  
Traditional Home Health Care  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
University of Utah Stillbirth Center of Excellence  
Urban Baby Beginnings  
Wild Lavender Counseling  
Wilson County Women's Coalition  
Womb Wisdom Wellness LLC  
Women Employed  
Works of Faith Wellness and Consultation, LLC  
Yolanda Ramos LLC  
ZERO TO THREE  
Zetas in Action