

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington D.C. 20515**

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As you continue working on the next legislative package to address the current coronavirus (COVID-19) health pandemic, we urge you to prioritize the needs of our nation's maternal and child health populations, including those with special health care needs. We request that you provide additional funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) Block Grant, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Due to COVID-19, there are gaps emerging in maternal and child health services, and additional resources are needed to address these issues both now and in the aftermath of the immediate crisis. These include, but are not limited to, delays in initial newborn hearing and bloodspot screening; concerns about increased risk for injuries at home, such as window falls or drownings; adherence to childhood immunization schedules and developmental screenings; and adequate nutrition and addressing the unique needs of women and infants in the perinatal period.

States are in dire need of additional Title V MCH Block Grant funding in order to meet the specific maternal and child health needs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including supporting transition to telehealth services; assuring timeliness of screening and follow-up for heritable disorders and hearing; providing critical information to pregnant women and new mothers; and ensuring access to medication and equipment for children with special health care needs.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source used to address the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in each state, territory, and jurisdiction of the United States. According to data gathered by HRSA, ***91% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 54% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service*** in FY2018.

The flexible nature of the MCH Block Grant makes it an easily deployable source of support for states to meet locally identified needs and foster positive maternal and child health outcomes. We urge you to provide additional funding for the Title V MCH Block Grant in the next legislative vehicle for COVID-19 relief.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Danny Davis  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
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Gregory Meeks  
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Thomas R. Suozzi  
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William Keating  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
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