

October 31, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, Leader McConnell, Chairman Cole, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins,

As we approach the end of the 118th Congress, we, the undersigned 125 organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of our nation's families, **strongly urge you to swiftly pass the bipartisan *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023* (H.R. 3838/S. 2415) or include the bill in the final FY 2025 appropriations package or any other must-pass legislative package.** The *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act* passed out of the Senate HELP Committee in the fall of 2023 and passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support on March 5, 2024.

This legislation continues crucial federal support for the state-based maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs) that review pregnancy-related deaths to identify causes and make recommendations for the prevention of future mortalities. It is critical that Congress does everything in its power to address the maternal mortality crisis and work towards solutions to prevent future, unnecessary deaths, including swiftly passing the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act*.

The maternal mortality crisis continues to worsen in the United States. In 2021, over 1,200 women died as a result of pregnancy or childbirth, continuing an upward trend of over 20 years.¹ Racial disparities in

¹ [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2021/maternal-mortality-rates-2021.htm#:~:text=In%202021%2C%201%2C205%20women%20died,20.1%20in%202019%20\(Table\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2021/maternal-mortality-rates-2021.htm#:~:text=In%202021%2C%201%2C205%20women%20died,20.1%20in%202019%20(Table))

maternal outcomes persist, with Black and Indigenous birthing people dying at 2-3 times the rate of their white counterparts.² Additionally, rural areas experience higher rates of maternal mortality compared to urban areas.³ **Yet research from the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) using state Maternal Mortality Review Committee data indicates that over 80% of maternal mortalities are preventable.**⁴ It is imperative that we understand why deaths are occurring and enact solutions to save the lives of hundreds of birthing people each year.

The *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act* is a vital component of America's fight against maternal mortality. Specifically, the bill would reauthorize, through 2028, federal support for states to collect and analyze data on every maternal death in order to identify solutions toward addressing disparities in maternal health outcomes and preserving the life and health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. This legislation would also require the CDC to work in consultation with the Health Resources and Services Administration to disseminate best practices relating to the prevention of maternal mortality to hospitals and other health care providers.

We look forward to working with you to pass the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act* as an important step towards eliminating maternal mortality in our nation. For more information, please contact Sherie Lou Santos, Chief of Policy and Government Affairs at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, at ssantos@amchp.org.

Sincerely,

AAHP Executive Coalition
AFE Foundation
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS United
Alliance for Black NICU Families
America's Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Birth Centers
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association

² <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2806661>

³

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2022.307134#:~:text=Data%20from%20the%20National%20inpatient,socioeconomic%20factors%20and%20clinical%20conditions.>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/php/data-research/mmrc-2017-2019.html>

American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
APS Foundation of America, Inc
Arkansas Birthing Project
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Baby Cafe USA
BIRTHING PROJECT USA
Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA)
Caledonia Counseling
California Chapter of Postpartum Support International
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Reproductive Rights
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Environmental Health Network
Community Catalyst
Cummings Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health Studies
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Every Mother Counts
Families USA
Family Voices - National
FASD United
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
GLO Preemies
HealthConnect One
Healthy Families America
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Coalition of Georgia
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies -The Montana Coalition
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Hyperemesis Education and Research Foundation
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement
Iowa ACEs 360
Kelly's Learning Academy LLC
Lifeline for Families Center and Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School
Lighthouse Counseling Services
Mamaya Health

March for Moms
March of Dimes
Mary's Center
Mass. PPD Fund
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Mental Health America of Ohio
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Moms Mental Health Initiative, Inc.
MomsRising
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA)
National Healthy Start Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
NC MATTERS
Nemours Children's Health
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Parents as Teachers
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Postpartum Support Center
Postpartum Support International
Postpartum Support Virginia
Power to Decide
PPROM Foundation
Preeclampsia Foundation
PREMIEWORLD FOUNDATION INC
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Prevention Institute
Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America)
Shades of Blue Project
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for Women's Health Research
Spina Bifida Association
Start Early - Illinois Policy
Tara Hansen Foundation
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The Children's Partnership
The Cooperative
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Postpartum Adjustment Center
The Shane Foundation
The Tiny Miracles Foundation
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United States of Care
Water Signs Community Services
ZERO TO THREE