

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2027 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, **we urge you to provide \$100 million for the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies (SET-NET)** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding would enable SET-NET to reach additional state and local jurisdictions, track more health threats to pregnant individuals and their infants, and lead the nationwide preparedness and response needed to protect pregnant individuals and infants in the United States from emerging and re-emerging public health threats.

The United States continues to grapple with ongoing public health emergencies that put our most vulnerable populations, including pregnant individuals and infants, at risk. Building on an innovative mom-baby linked data collection approach developed in response to the Zika outbreak, SET-NET leverages existing data sources to enable CDC and health departments to detect the impact of new and emerging health threats on pregnant individuals and their babies. SET-NET helps families, health care providers, public health professionals, and policymakers take action to save lives, reduce risk, and improve the health of pregnant individuals and infants.

SET-NET currently provides support to 26 state, local, and territorial health departments to monitor the impact of exposure to syphilis, hepatitis C, congenital cytomegalovirus, and dengue on pregnant individuals and their babies. Historically, SET-NET collected information on COVID-19, Zika, and MPox. With sufficient funding, SET-NET could expand to support additional state, local, and territorial health departments as they collect, analyze, and report data on existing and emerging threats to pregnant individuals and their babies.

The public health data infrastructure and surveillance systems established under SET-NET have contributed data critical to public health responses to new and emerging threats, including:

- Identification of pregnancy as a risk factor for severe COVID-19 and that a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy increased the risk for preterm birth and stillbirth, underscoring the need for infection prevention and supporting a recommendation of vaccination during pregnancy;
- Identification of a link between substance use during pregnancy and infants born with congenital syphilis, highlighting the need for syphilis screening and treatment at every health encounter during pregnancy for those using substances; and
- Identification of missed opportunities to treat pregnant individuals with a hepatitis C virus infection prior to pregnancy, preventing transmission to the infant.

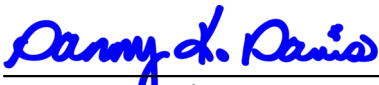
Investing in this sustainable framework for rapid, evidence-based data collection will ensure that the United States is prepared to meet the unique needs of pregnant individuals and infants before, during, and after public health emergencies. Thank you for your consideration of this **request to provide \$100 million for the**

Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies program in Fiscal Year 2027 to fully fund a national preparedness and response network focused on pregnant individuals and infants.

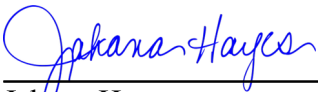
Sincerely,



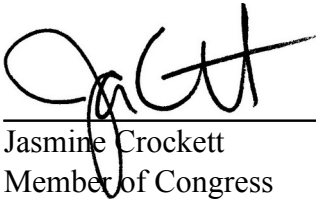
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



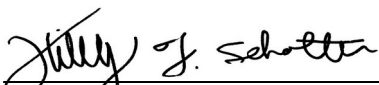
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



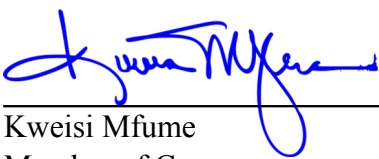
Jahana Hayes
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Jasmine Crockett
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Hillary J. Scholten
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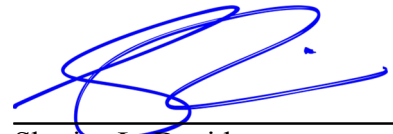
Kweisi Mfume
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Brian K. Fitzpatrick
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Josh Gottheimer
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Sharice L. Davids
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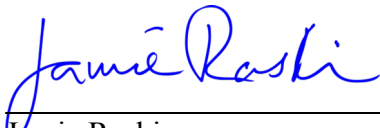
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



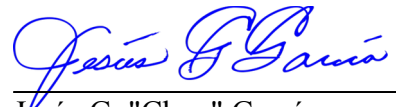
Terri A. Sewell
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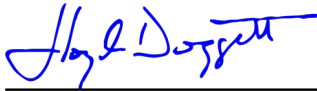
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



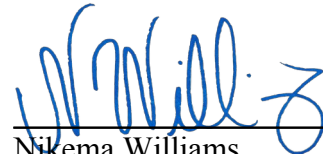
George Whitesides
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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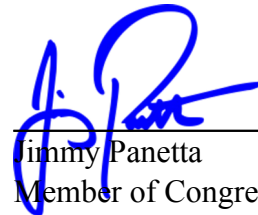
Lloyd Doggett
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Nikema Williams
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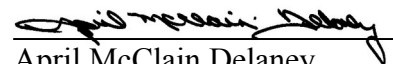
Julia Brownley
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



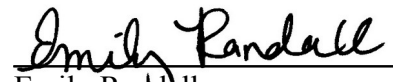
Gregory W. Meeks
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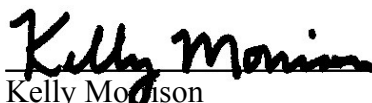
April McClain Delaney
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David Scott
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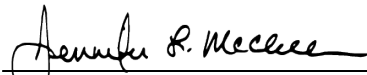
Emily Randall
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Kelly Morrison
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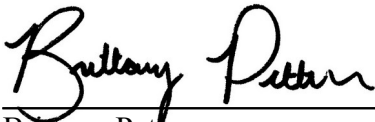
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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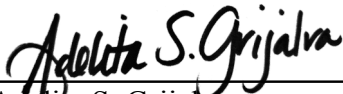
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Brittany Pettersen
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Rashida Tlaib
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Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



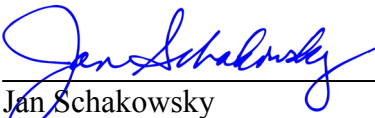
Ro Khanna
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



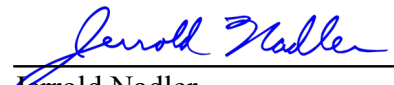
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



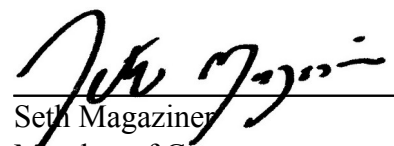
Wesley Bell
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Jerrold Nadler
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Julie Johnson
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Seth Magaziner
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Donald G. Davis
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