

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Moore Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

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 jurisdictions, track more threats, 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 women and their babies. 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 women and their babies.

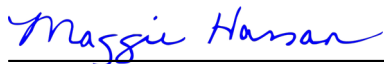
The public health data infrastructure and surveillance systems established under SET-NET have contributed data critical to public health responses to new and emerging threats, including:

- 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;

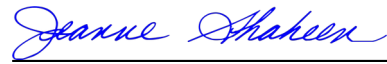
- Identification of a link between substance use during pregnancy and infants born with congenital syphilis, highlighting the need for syphilis screening and treatment at every health encounter during pregnancy for those using substances; and
- Identification of missed opportunities to treat pregnant individuals mothers 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 during 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.

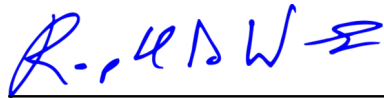
Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



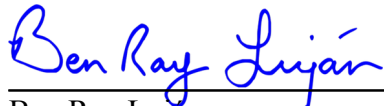
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator