

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  
Chairwoman  
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 118<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> Racial disparities in

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<sup>1</sup> [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.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, rural areas experience higher rates of maternal mortality compared to urban areas.<sup>3</sup> **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.**<sup>4</sup> 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](mailto: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 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  
American Psychological Association

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

<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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 Premies  
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