

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
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

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned 85 national organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of our nation's families, write to express our strong support for the bipartisan *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023* (H.R.3838/S.2415). 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. **With our nation's maternal mortality rate on the rise, we urge you to swiftly pass the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act*.** 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.

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 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 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) using state Maternal Mortality Review Committee data indicates that at least 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,

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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))

<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/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/erase-mm/data-mmrc.html>

childbirth, and the postpartum period. This legislation would also require the CDC to work in consultation with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) 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 of 2023* as an important step towards eliminating maternal mortality in our nation. For more information, please contact Sherie Lou Santos, Director of Government Affairs at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, at [ssantos@amchp.org](mailto:ssantos@amchp.org).

Sincerely,

2 Degrees Foundation  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFE Foundation  
African American Mayors Association  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families  
Alliance for Black NICU Families  
Alliance of Sleep Apnea Partners  
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 Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Public Health Association  
Anchor Perinatal Wellness  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology (APAOG)  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Baby Café USA, Inc  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc. (BMMA)  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Centering Healthcare Institute  
Centro Pediatrico de Lactancia Y Crianza  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Every Mother Counts  
Family Voices  
FASD United  
Futures Without Violence  
GLO Premies  
Hand to Hold  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Families America  
Healthy Teen Network  
HealthyWomen  
Hyperemesis Education and Research Foundation  
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement  
Lamaze International  
March For Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Mind the Gap Coalition  
MomsRising  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Parents as Teachers  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Postpartum Support International  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
PremieWorld.com  
RH Impact: The Collaborative for Equity & Justice  
Safe States Alliance  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Start Early

Tara Hansen Foundation  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (formerly 2020 Mom)  
The PPROM Foundation  
The Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation  
Then Shane Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
Women of Color Health Equity Collective