

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Robin Kelly
United States House of Representatives
2416 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly:

The undersigned organizations dedicated to the health and wellbeing of mothers, children, and families write to express our support for the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA) Act. We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation to reverse the troubling trajectory in the rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States.

Tragically, the United States ranks far below other developed nations in preventing pregnancy-related deaths and serious adverse outcomes. Each year, nearly 700 women die during or within a year of the end of their pregnancy due to pregnancy-related or pregnancy-associated complications. An additional 50,000 women experience severe complications that can negatively impact their long-term health. Black women are three to four times more likely to die of causes related to pregnancy than their white peers, a disparity that has both persisted and widened over time. Studies estimate that more than half of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, and approximately half of maternal injuries could be reduced or eliminated with better care and enhanced maternal mortality data. Unfortunately, the current system fails to address the medical and social determinant factors that contribute to such high maternal mortality rates within the United States compared to other high-income countries.

The MOMMA Act seeks to address this issue through a comprehensive set of policies to improve data collection, disseminate information on effective interventions, and expand access to health care and social services for postpartum women. The legislation would bolster federal efforts to support states in collecting, standardizing, and sharing maternal mortality and morbidity data. In addition, it authorizes and expands existing federal grant programs dedicated to scaling best practices to improve maternity care. The MOMMA Act would also permit states to expand coverage under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) through a longer post-partum period for women. Finally, the legislation would ensure improved access to culturally-competent care training and workforce practices throughout the care delivery system.

Our organizations are proud to support the MOMMA Act, and we look forward to working with you to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families. If we can provide more information, please contact Rebecca Abbott, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs for Public Health at March of Dimes (rabbott@marchofdimes.org or 202.292.2750).

Sincerely,
1,000 Days
2020 Mom
Academy of Lactation Policy & Practice
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AFE Foundation
American Academy of Family Physicians

American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine/Shady Grove Fertility
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
Black Mamas Community Collective
Black Mamas Matter Alliance
Black Women's Health Imperative
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.
Children's Environmental Health Network
Community Catalyst
Every Mother Counts
Expecting Health at Genetic Alliance
First Focus Campaign for Children
Hand to Hold
Healthy Children Project, Inc.
HER Foundation
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Lamaze International
March of Dimes
Maternal Safety Foundation
Mom Congress
MomsRising
National Accreta Foundation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Patient Safety Movement Foundation
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation

Prevention Institute
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Save 100 Babies
Save The Mommies
Sepsis Alliance
Shades of Blue Project
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Spina Bifida Association
Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation, Inc.
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation