

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

Our organizations commend the Congressional support to advance legislation – H.R. 1318/S. 1112 – to reduce maternal mortality in the United States. We urge you to move swiftly to bring the legislation for a vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate before the end of this calendar year.

Our nation faces a growing crisis in maternal health. More women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States than in any other developed country, and the rate of maternal deaths continues to rise. Major disparities in maternal mortality exist, with black women three to four times more likely than white women to die during pregnancy or shortly after birth. Moreover, for every maternal death that occurs, an estimated 100 other women suffer severe complications of pregnancy or childbirth. We must act now – in the 115th Congress – to reverse this trend and save mothers' lives.

This important legislation is the beginning of a longer-term solution toward eradicating preventable maternal death and improving maternal and infant health in the United States. The legislation will accelerate progress toward ensuring that every state has a high-functioning process for identifying the causes of maternal mortality and working across communities to implement solutions.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has already unanimously approved S. 1112. The leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee expressed bipartisan support during a September 2018 hearing on H.R. 1318 for passing the bill this year. Congress is on the cusp of sending legislation to the President's desk that will equip the United States with the tools it needs to tackle this problem and move the country forward in addressing the growing maternal mortality crisis.

We strongly urge you to bring H.R. 1318/S. 1112 to the House and Senate floor for a full vote before the end of this calendar year.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
2020 Mom
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AFE Foundation
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
Amnesty International USA
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Black Women's Health Imperative
Centering Healthcare Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Environmental Health Network
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
CityMatCH
Day Before Birth
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Every Mother Counts
Expecting Health at Genetic Alliance
First Focus Campaign for Children
Hand to Hold
HealthConnect One
HER Foundation
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Infant Nutrition Council of America
Johnson & Johnson
Lakeshore Foundation
Lamaze International
March of Dimes
Maternal Safety Foundation
Miracle Babies

MomsRising
NAPHSIS
National Accreta Foundation
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Health Law Program
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Parents as Teachers
Patient Safety Movement Foundation
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation
PremieWorld, LLC
Prevention Institute
Safe States Alliance
Save The Mommies Inc
Seleni Institute
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Reproductive Investigation
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)
The Shane Foundation
The Tara Hansen Foundation
The Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
ZERO TO THREE

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce; The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions