

December 10, 2018

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

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As organizations dedicated to reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health, we write to express our strong support for House passage of H.R.1318, the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act*, a bill sponsored by Representatives Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Ryan Costello (R-PA). We commend the bipartisan effort to advance this legislation to address maternal mortality and urge Congress to quickly send the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act* to the President's desk for his signature before the Congress adjourns.

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 *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act* will accelerate progress toward ensuring that every state has a high-functioning process for identifying the causes of maternal mortality and translating recommendations made by maternal mortality review committees to meaningful action. This legislation will also advance efforts among states to standardize the collection and analysis of data so that we can develop a national understanding of why mothers are dying in the United States and what it will take to reverse this tragic trend.

We thank you for bringing this important legislation to a vote and we express our strong support for House passage of the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act*.

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  
APS Foundation of America, Inc.  
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  
Better BedRest, Inc.  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
CityMatCH  
Community Catalyst  
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  
Heroes for Moms  
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 Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
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  
Raising Women's Voices  
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