

FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
1825 K Street NW Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-775-0436

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least **\$698 million** for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the **FY2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill**.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source used to address the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in each state, territory, and jurisdiction. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **86% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 55% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service** in FY2017.

States and jurisdictions use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. These programs save federal and state governments money by ensuring that people receive preventive services to avoid more-costly chronic conditions later in life. Although initiatives may vary among the states and jurisdictions, all of them work with local, state, and national partners to accomplish the following:

- Reduce infant mortality
- Assure access to quality care, especially for those with low-incomes or limited availability of care;
- Provide and ensure access to comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care to women (especially low-income and at-risk pregnant women);
- Increase the number of children who receive regular health assessments and, when indicated, diagnostic and treatment services and appropriate follow-up;

- Provide and ensure access to preventive and primary care services, including oral health services, for low-income children as well as rehabilitative services for children with special health care needs; and
- Implement family-centered, community-based systems of coordinated care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN).

In the past Congress, we were pleased to see increased attention to the issue of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States. State Title V programs are at the forefront of working to identify causes of pregnancy-associated deaths and severe complications, devise plans to address those causes, and implement programs to prevent future deaths and near misses. Increased funding allotted to the Title V MCH Block Grant in FY2019 was an important step in equipping states to carry out this mission. However, state programs are still in need of additional resources, for example, to increase epidemiological capacity to translate maternal health data into meaningful action.

Title V MCH Block Grant programs also work diligently to train the next generation of maternal and child health workforce leaders as well as address emerging issues and emergencies. For example, the Alabama Title V program, in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics Alabama Chapter, formed the Opioid Misuse in Women/Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Taskforce. The task force seeks to target the misuse of opioids among women and address NAS by introducing preventative strategies and screening protocols to achieve early identification in women and babies. The Texas Title V program helps families of children with special health care needs prepare for hurricane season by disseminating case management and mental health resources as well as a family emergency plan template.

Our funding request for FY2020 still represents a decrease from the Title V MCH Block Grant's highest funding level of \$731 million in FY2002 and is well below the full authorization level of \$850 million. We thank you for funding the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$677.7 million in FY2019 and **urge you to provide an increase to \$698 million in FY2020** given the increased demands being placed on the Block Grant. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Amy Haddad at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-266-3045 or ahaddad@amchp.org.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association on Health and Disability

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Medical Women's Association

American Organization of Nurse Executives

American Podiatric Medical Association

American Public Health Association

APLA Health

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Black Mamas Matter Alliance
BUSPH Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice
Center for Health Equity, University of California, San Francisco
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
CityMatCH
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
Easterseals
Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
Every Mother Counts
Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Lakeshore Foundation
March of Dimes
Medela LLC
Mental Health America
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)
National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS)
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Parents as Teachers
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Power to Decide
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Public Health Institute
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
RESULTS
Safe States Alliance
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Women's Health Research
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
YWCA USA