

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