

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Xochtil Torres Small  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert E. Latta  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Engel, Bucshon, Torres Small and Latta:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinical partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes in support of your legislation, H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act.

Maternal health is a top priority for the AHA and our member hospitals and health systems. The causes for the escalating rates of maternal mortality are complex, including a lack of consistent access to comprehensive care and persistent racial disparities in health and health care. As hospitals work to improve health outcomes across the continuum of care, we are redoubling our efforts to combat maternal mortality and morbidity.

Your legislation would help our hospitals and health systems improve maternal health by authorizing grants to implement rural obstetric networks, maternal telehealth programs and a rural maternal care training demonstration. It also would fund programs that develop and disseminate best practices to improve maternal outcomes; educate health care professionals on implicit bias in order to reduce and prevent discrimination; support perinatal quality collaboratives; and establish programs to deliver integrated health care services to pregnant and postpartum women.



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The AHA commends you for your commitment to improve maternal health. We stand ready to work with you to advance H.R. 4995.

Sincerely,

*/s/*

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President