

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20210

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

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

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2025 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, **we urge you to provide \$100 million for the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies (SET-NET)** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding would enable SET-NET to reach additional jurisdictions, track more threats, and lead the nationwide preparedness and response needed to protect pregnant individuals and infants in the United States from emerging and re-emerging public health threats. Further, we recommend that you include the following bill report language:

Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies — The committee includes \$100,000,000 to expand CDC's Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mother and Babies funded entities to additional threats and additional U.S. States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and tribal entities. The program supports CDC's collaboration with State, tribal, territorial, and local health departments to monitor the impact of emerging health threats on pregnant people and their babies and inform public health and clinical decision-making to improve the health of pregnant people and infants.

The United States continues to grapple with ongoing public health emergencies that put our most vulnerable populations, including pregnant individuals and infants, at risk. Building on an innovative mom-baby linked data collection approach developed in response to the Zika outbreak, SET-NET leverages existing data sources to enable CDC and health departments to detect the impact of new and emerging health threats on pregnant individuals and their babies.

SET-NET helps families, health care providers, public health professionals, and policymakers take action to save lives, reduce risk, and improve the health of pregnant individuals and infants.

In Fiscal Year 2024, SET-NET provided support to 29 state, local, and territorial health departments to monitor the impact of exposure to Zika, syphilis, hepatitis C, COVID-19, MPox, and congenital cytomegalovirus on pregnant individuals and their babies. With sufficient funding, SET-NET could expand to support up to 64 state, local, and territorial health departments as they collect, analyze, and report data on existing and emerging threats to pregnant individuals and their babies.

The public health data infrastructure and surveillance systems established under SET-NET have contributed data critical to public health responses to new and emerging threats, including:

- Identification of pregnancy as a risk factor for severe COVID-19 and that a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy increased the risk for preterm birth and stillbirth, underscoring the need for infection prevention and supporting a recommendation of vaccination during pregnancy;
- Identification of a link between substance use during pregnancy and infants born with congenital syphilis, highlighting the need for syphilis screening and treatment at every health encounter during pregnancy for those using substances; and
- Identification of missed opportunities to treat pregnant individuals with a hepatitis C virus infection prior to pregnancy, preventing transmission to the infant.

Investing in this sustainable framework for rapid, evidence-based data collection will ensure that the United States is prepared to meet the unique needs of pregnant individuals and infants during public health emergencies. Thank you for your consideration of this **request to provide \$100 million for the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies program in Fiscal Year 2025** to fully fund a national preparedness and response network focused on pregnant individuals and infants.

Sincerely,

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nurses Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association

APS Foundation of America, Inc
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Baby Cafe USA
Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc. (BMMA)
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Perinatal Mental Health
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Department of Family & Community Medicine, Maternal Health Project at Meharry Medical College
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Every Mother Counts
Families USA
Family Voices
FASD United
First Focus Campaign for Children
George Washington University
GLO Preemies
HealthConnect One
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.
Healthy Families America
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Help Me Grow National Center
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement (PQI)
Lifeline for Families Center and Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School
March for Moms
March of Dimes
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Meharry Medical College Office of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation
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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Healthy Start Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality

National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Parents as Teachers
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Postpartum Support International
Power to Decide
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America)
ROOTT
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Women's Health Research
Spina Bifida Association
Tara Hansen Foundation
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The Institute on Health Disparities, Equity and the Exposome (IHDEE)/Meharry Medical
College
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
University at Albany School of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program
ZERO TO THREE