

March 23, 2023

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 2024 (FY24) 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, including COVID-19, 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. SET-NET is an innovative data collection system that links maternal exposures during pregnancy to health outcomes for babies. Building on a 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. Findings from SET-NET help 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 2023 (FY23), SET-NET provided support to 29 state, local, and territorial health departments to monitor the impact on pregnant individuals and their babies of exposure to Zika, syphilis, hepatitis C, COVID-19, and, new in FY23, congenital cytomegalovirus. 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 and broaden the scope of the program to conduct stillbirth surveillance and examine environmental hazards such as lead or perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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 risk for preterm birth and stillbirth, underscoring the need for infection prevention and supporting a recommendation of vaccination during pregnancy;
- SET-NET data collected between 2018 and 2021 found 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
- An analysis of SET-NET indicated 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 2024** to fully fund a national preparedness and response network focused on pregnant individuals and infants.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
African American Mayors Association  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families  
Alliance for Black NICU 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 - Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health  
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Heart Association  
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)  
American Nurses Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Public Health Association  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
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  
Florida State University College of Medicine  
Futures Without Violence  
GLO Premies  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Teen Network  
HealthyWomen  
Hyperemesis Education and Research (HER) Foundation  
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement  
Lamaze International  
Lifeline for Families and the Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
MomsRising  
NASTAD  
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 Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First  
National WIC Association  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Postpartum Support International (PSI)  
Power to Decide  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
PremieWorld, LLC  
Prevent Blindness  
ROOTT  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Spina Bifida Association  
Start Early  
Tara Hansen Foundation  
The 2 Degrees Foundation  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The PPRM Foundation  
The Shane Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
University of Illinois School of Public Health  
ZERO TO THREE