

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Eliot Engel
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Engel and Stivers,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations dedicated to the health of mothers, infants, and families, thank you for introducing the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act (H.R. 1551). This legislation represents an essential next step in Congress' effort to address the nation's maternal mortality crisis, which claims the lives of 700 new moms each year. It will also address alarming recent increases in preterm birth, the leading contributor to infant death in the United States.

In late 2018, Congress passed the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (P.L. 115-344) to support states in establishing and improving maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs). MMRCs are responsible for investigating each instance of maternal death and then making recommendations to prevent future tragedies. However, the recommendations are only meaningful if states take action to implement them. The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act would help states translate recommendations into action by supporting new and existing perinatal quality collaboratives. Collaboratives share best practices and lessons learned with each other, but are each operated and controlled at the state and regional level, meaning that solutions and approaches to innovation are locally relevant. By fostering these collaboratives, diverse groups of stakeholders help reduce preventable maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and infant mortality by encouraging local providers through the adoption of best practices, including eliminating elective deliveries before 39 weeks, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing cesarean sections, and much more. Improved outcomes will mean healthier moms, healthier babies, and cost savings for the entire health care system.

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act would also improve the quality of care for pregnant women and infants by directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a core set of evidence-based perinatal quality measures to be used in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), improving care for pregnant women and infants enrolled in those programs. Our organizations strongly support the focus your bill brings to perinatal quality issues and care delivery. While HHS currently has a core set of quality measures for adults and a separate one for children, there is a great need for a single, recognized core set for pregnant women and their babies. Quality care and better data will lead to improved health outcomes, which in turn will reduce health expenditures for patients, the states, and the federal government.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to improving the care delivered to moms and babies. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,
2020 Mom
AFE Foundation
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Public Health Association
APS Foundation of America, Inc
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Every Mother Counts
Expecting Health
Hyperemesis Education & Research (HER) Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Lakeshore Foundation
Lamaze International
March for Moms
March of Dimes
Mom Congress
MomsRising
MOTHERHOOD UNDERSTOOD
National Accreta Foundation
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Patient Safety Movement Foundation
Preeclampsia Foundation
PremieWorld, LLC
Return to Zero: H.O.P.E.
Save the Mommies
Sepsis Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Reproductive Investigation
The Joint Commission
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation