

FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT

c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
1825 K Street NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-775-0436

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

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 organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least **\$1 billion** for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the **FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill**, reflecting increases for both the state formula fund as well as Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 700 pregnancy-related deaths occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 80 percent of these deaths are preventable. Further, CDC recently released provisional data indicating that the total infant mortality rate in the U.S. increased by 3% from 2021-2022, and additional CDC data show a marked increase in maternal deaths during the pandemic. *The Title V MCH Block Grant is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of all women and children.*

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source that addresses the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and each territory. State health departments use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of statewide and community-level maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), *Title V MCH Block Grant funding provided access to health care and public health services for an estimated 61 million people in FY22, including 99% of infants, 93% of all pregnant people, and 61% of children nationwide.*

While programming varies among states, areas of focus among Title V MCH programs include reducing maternal mortality, infant mortality, stillbirth, and preventable diseases among children; advancing health equity and eliminating racial, ethnic, and geographic inequities in maternal and child health outcomes; assuring access to quality maternal and child health services, especially for families with incomes below the federal poverty level or who live in areas with limited availability of health services; and promoting family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children with special health care needs. These programs ensure people receive preventive services to avoid more costly chronic conditions later in life, thereby saving federal and state governments money.

Further, the SPRANS portion of the Title V Block Grant, particularly its flexibility, is an essential component to achieving Title V's mission of ensuring the health of the nation's mothers, women, children and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs, and their families. In FY 2023, \$212.1 million in SPRANS funding supported the work of 201 grantees across 59 states and jurisdictions by funding innovation, training and workforce, technical assistance, quality improvement, and other mission-critical efforts, including genetics services, newborn screening, and treatments for sickle cell disease and hemophilia. A loss of SPRANS funding could detrimentally impact MCH populations, providers, public health professionals, and trainees in a sweeping way.

The MCH workforce and programs need sustained, increased investment to best serve the nation's maternal and child health populations now and into the future. While we were disappointed to see a decrease in funding for the Title V MCH Block Grant to \$813.7 million in FY 2024, we are grateful that Congress completed its FY 2024 appropriations work. Moving forward, we **urge you to provide an increase to at least \$1 billion in FY2025, including robust increases in both the state formula fund and for SPRANS**, to promote sustainable public health programs centered on the needs of our nation's women, children, and families. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Sherie Lou Santos at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-964-2411 or ssantos@amchp.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association on Health and Disability
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 Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
APS Foundation of America, Inc

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Baby Cafe USA
BirthRoot Community Doula Alliance
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
Committee for Children
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
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
Futures Without Violence
George Washington University
GLO Premies
HealthConnect One
Healthy Beginnings
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.
Healthy Families America
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Help Me Grow National Center
Hyperemesis Education & Research Foundation
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement
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
Mom Congress
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA)
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
National WIC Association
Nurse-Family Partnership
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Parents as Teachers
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Postpartum Support International
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America)
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for Women's Health Research
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The PPROM Foundation
The Shane Foundation
TN AHEC at Meharry Medical College
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
University at Albany School of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program
ZERO TO THREE