April 12, 2021

The following 61 national organizations support the below bipartisan letter urging the highest possible funding for federal programs to improve maternal health in Fiscal Year 2022. The letter is co-led by Reps. DeGette (D-CO), Gallagher (R-WI), Kelly (D-IL), Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Adams (D-NC), and Meijer (R-MI). The full list of Members of Congress who co-sign this letter will be available after April 23. The below list of national organizations will be updated as additional organizations endorse the letter. Questions? Please contact Alyson Northrup with the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at anorthrup@amchp.org.

2020 Mom  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFE Foundation  
Allo Hope Foundation  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Medical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Babyscripts  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Equitable Maternal Health Coalition  
Futures Without Violence  
Hand to Hold  
HealthConnect One  
HealthyWomen  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
Johnson & Johnson  
Lamaze International  
LetsTalkPPCM  
Lifeline For Moms, University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Mahmee  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Mom Congress  
Momma's Voices  
MomsRising
April XX, 2021

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

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

Our nation continues to face a crisis in maternal health. **As you develop the appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2022, we encourage you to prioritize the highest possible funding level for the below programs that seek to prevent maternal deaths, eliminate inequities in maternal health outcomes, and improve maternal health overall.**
More women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States than in any other
developed country, and the rate of maternal deaths continues to rise. According to the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 700 pregnancy-related deaths occur in the
U.S. each year and 60 percent of these deaths are preventable. Major disparities in maternal
mortality exist, with Black women three to four times more likely than non-Hispanic White
women to die due to pregnancy-related complications and Indigenous women more than twice as
likely than non-Hispanic White women to die due to pregnancy-related complications.
Moreover, for every maternal death that occurs, more than 70 other women suffer severe
complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

**Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant** – The Title V MCH
Services Block Grant administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration
(HRSA) is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of
all women and children in the United States. This flexible and cost-effective funding
source is used by states, territories, and other jurisdictions to address their most critical
maternal and child health needs. This includes supporting statewide maternal mortality
reviews - the gold standard in maternal mortality surveillance - and implementing
strategies to translate recommendations made by maternal mortality review committees to
meaningful action. Title V also supports the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health
program, a data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative, and State
Maternal Health Innovation Grants, a demonstration program to implement evidence-
based interventions to address critical gaps in maternity care service.

**Healthy Start** – HRSA’s Healthy Start program provides grants to support community-
based strategies to improve perinatal outcomes for women and children in high-risk
communities throughout the nation. In particular, the Healthy Start program seeks to
reduce disparities in infant and maternal mortality by empowering at-risk women and
their families to identify and access maternal and infant health services in their
communities. To further support healthy maternal outcomes, since FY 2019, Healthy
Start programs across the nation have had health care providers on-site to provide clinical
services, such as well-woman care and maternity care services, making the Healthy Start
program a critical component of federal efforts to reduce both maternal and infant
mortality.

**Safe Motherhood and Infant Health** – This portfolio of programs at CDC supports a
broad range of activities that seek to improve the health of moms and babies and reduce
disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes. This includes implementation of the
Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (P.L. 115-344) through the Enhancing Reviews and
Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) Program to provide funding,
technical assistance, and guidance to state maternal mortality review committees. It also
includes support for perinatal quality collaboratives, which are state or multi-state
networks of teams working to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies. Among
other activities, in 2020 CDC launched the HEAR HER Campaign, a communication
campaign to increase awareness of warnings signs that could lead to pregnancy-related
death or delivery complications and strengthen patient and provider communication.
National Institutes of Health – Research is critically important to optimizing the health of women and their families in the United States and identifying the causes behind pregnancy-related deaths and complications. The vast majority of research in pregnancy in the U.S. occurs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Broadly, 21 of 27 institutes at the NIH support at least one grant or project related to pregnancy-related research, with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) consistently providing the greatest support of perinatal research in the United States. NICHD's work includes the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network (MFMU), a network of 12 centers across the country that conduct clinical studies to improve maternal, fetal, and neonatal health. NICHD is also working to advance safe and effective therapies for pregnant and lactating women as recommended in 2019 by the federal Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women (authorized under P.L. 114-255). Strengthened, prioritized support for maternal health research at the NIH is crucial to fully understanding the health inequities and disparities in outcomes that the U.S. is facing.

Providing strong and sustained funding for each of these programs is critical to addressing our nation's maternal health crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this request to prioritize the highest possible funding level for programs that seek to prevent maternal deaths, eliminate inequities in maternal health outcomes, and improve maternal health overall.

Sincerely,