

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