

# CQMC Coalition for Quality Maternity Care

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May 31, 2012

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Hagan  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative DeLauro and Senator Hagan:

On behalf of the Coalition for Quality Maternity Care (CQMC), a coalition of national professional, consumer, and human rights organizations that promote high quality maternity care for all women and newborns, we write to thank you for your efforts to address birth defects and your introduction of the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011 (H.R.2029/S.1131). The CQMC is proud to endorse your legislation at this time.

Over 70,000 women and health care providers across the country seek answers to important questions from pregnancy risk information services (PRISs) each year. Currently, the federal government does not provide these services nor offer equivalent personalized services—and as a result, over the last decade, more than half of these services have closed due to lack of funding. This legislation will authorize grant funding for these critical information services and help women get answers to their critical questions about drug safety, chemical exposures, and other potential risks to their pregnancies and children.

Research has shown that up to half of pregnant women are not aware of the potential risks of medications they may be taking. Expectant and breast-feeding mothers should be able to have access to the information they need to keep their children safe. CQMC supports your efforts to ensure that this legislation will help to ensure women and families will be able to obtain important facts about the risks of medication, illnesses and other potential dangers during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

The time is now to improve the quality of maternity care in the U.S. To this end, the CQMC is working to establish national strategies to ensure access to affordable, high quality maternity care for all women and infants. It seeks to achieve this goal by removing barriers to optimal maternal health practice, promoting models of care that are evidence-based, improving maternity care choices for women, and reducing disparities in maternal and newborn health outcomes.



CQMC applauds your leadership in the area of women's health and stands ready to help you to achieve the passage of H.R.2029/S.1131. If you wish to draw upon our assistance, please contact Patrick Cooney at (202) 347-0034 or via email at [patrick@federalgrp.com](mailto:patrick@federalgrp.com).

Sincerely,

American Association of Birth Centers  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Amnesty International USA  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Childbirth Connection  
International Center for Traditional Childbearing  
Midwives Alliance of North America  
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives