

# CQMC Coalition for Quality Maternity Care

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May 31, 2012

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Pallone and Senator Lautenberg:

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 infant mortality by championing the Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education and Awareness Act of 2011 (H.R.3418/S.1862). The CQMC is proud to endorse your legislation at this time.

Every year, there are more than 25,000 stillbirths in the United States. Many of these deaths are the result of birth defects, infections, umbilical cord problems, and chronic conditions of the mother. However, there is no known cause for as many as half of all stillbirths, leaving many parents without explanations for their loss.

There are more than 4,600 sudden unexpected infant deaths each year and another 200 children between the ages 1 and 4 die without any obvious cause. Additional tragedies could be prevented if there were a better understanding of the deaths.

H.R.3418/S.1862 will expand current data collection activities to identify the causes of stillbirth and ways to prevent it in the future; create a national public awareness and education campaign to educate women about the risk factors for stillbirth, educate women about the importance of prenatal care, and educate parents and caregivers about known SUID risk factors; expand support services, such as grief counseling, for families who have experienced a stillbirth or SUID loss; encourage states and local entities to complete scene investigations and autopsies to help determine causes of SUIDs; expand child death review programs to review the circumstances surrounding infant and child deaths; and establish a national database to track SUID deaths and identify risk factors.

The time is now to address infant mortality and maternity care in a meaningful way. 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.



50 YEARS  
**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



National Association of  
Certified Professional Midwives  
**N·A·C·P·M**



CQMC applauds your leadership in this area and stands ready to help you to achieve the passage of H.R.3418/S.1862. 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