

June 14, 2017

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
1107 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
2426 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ryan Costello  
326 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2111 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Herrera Beutler, Conyers, Costello, and DeGette:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to improving maternal and child health, thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1318, the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017*. This legislation helps states establish or improve their maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs) – interdisciplinary groups of local experts in maternal, infant, and public health – to examine maternal death cases and identify locally relevant ways to prevent future deaths. H.R. 1318 addresses devastating and costly health consequences that threaten the lives of too many moms and their babies in our country today by investing in local solutions that work.

As you know, the United States has some of the worst maternal death rates in the developed world. The U.S. is ranked 47th globally for its maternal mortality rate, and women die every day in the U.S. due to complications from childbirth. Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of health-related maternal deaths in the United States. Alarmingly, black women are three to four times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication in the United States than white women.

Your legislation seeks to mitigate these statistics by supporting state MMRCs and promoting national information-sharing through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) so that states can continue to learn from best practices and collaborate as needed. This bill will also put data to work through demonstration projects to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes.

No mom or baby should ever die from preventable circumstances. The *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act* takes necessary action by assisting states in developing findings that can inform change, improve health quality, reduce health care costs, and save lives.

We applaud your leadership and stand ready to work with you to achieve passage of H.R. 1318, the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017*. If we can provide any assistance in this effort, please contact Julie Allen at (202) 230-5126 or [Julie.allen@dbr.com](mailto:Julie.allen@dbr.com) or Rebecca Nathanson at (202) 314-2322 or [rnathanson@acog.org](mailto:rnathanson@acog.org).

Sincerely,

American College of Nurse Midwives  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Psychological Association  
Amnesty International USA  
Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE) Foundation

APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Choices in Childbirth  
Day Before Birth  
Every Mother Counts  
HealthyWomen  
Heart Health 4 Moms (at Brigham and Women's Hospital)  
Lamaze International  
March of Dimes  
Maternova Inc.  
Maternova Research  
Medicines360  
MomsRising  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health  
Network for the Advancement of Perinatal Support (NAPS)  
New Jersey Hospital Association Perinatal Safety Collaborative  
PerkinElmer, Inc.  
PCOS Challenge, Inc.  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
PremieWorld, LLC  
SCAD Alliance  
Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
The Baby Box Company  
The Shane Foundation  
The Tara Hansen Foundation  
The Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation  
Women's Heart Alliance  
Women Heart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
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