

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chairman Aderhold and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the undersigned 135 organizations, we write to express our strong support for fully funding the implementation of the recently enacted PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, which reauthorized and expanded research, education and intervention activities related to preterm birth.

Specifically, we request the following funding for FY 2027 in support of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE) Reauthorization Act, enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, (P.L. No: 119-75):

- \$2 million for CDC research studies focused on preterm birth and its causes,
- \$1.5 million to support the establishment of the newly authorized HHS interagency working group focused on preterm birth and infant mortality, and
- \$2 million for the required National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) study on premature birth that will include an assessment of the costs, impact of social factors, and gaps in public health programs, and make recommendations to prevent preterm birth.

We also request the inclusion of the following committee report language in support of fully implementing the PREEMIE Act:

The Committee is encouraged by the enactment of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE) Reauthorization Act of 2025 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, P.L. No: 119-75. This reauthorization continues Congress's commitment to supporting innovative research studies on preterm birth and its causes. We request that the Secretary act in a timely manner to implement the new Department of Health and Human Services Interagency Working Group to coordinate on all federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes, as directed,

no later than 18 months after the date of enactment of PREEMIE. Furthermore, this Committee provides funding support for this working group and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) preterm birth study and requests the Secretary or his designate to provide an update within 60 days of enactment on the progress of the study and working group activities.

The U.S. has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world. Annually, more than 32,000 women experience life-threatening complications during labor and delivery, and during 2024, nearly 650 women died due to pregnancy-related causes. Additionally, the U.S. preterm birth rate has steadily increased since 2014 to 10.4% in 2024, garnering a D+ on the March of Dimes' annual [Report Card](#). This represents an increase to nearly 380,000 preterm births. Preterm birth also accounts for 35.8% of infant deaths in the U.S. Southern and Midwestern states are particularly impacted by both adverse preterm birth and maternal health trends.¹

Although there are some clinical predictors of preterm birth, all pregnant women are at risk for preterm birth. Infants born prematurely have increased risks of morbidity and death throughout childhood, especially during the first year of life. Long-term health impacts include intellectual and developmental delays, behavioral problems, neurological disorders including cerebral palsy, and physical impairments such as vision, respiratory or intestinal problems.²

Implementing the PREEMIE Act will help reduce preterm birth, prevent newborn death and disability caused by preterm birth, expand research into the causes of preterm birth, and promote the development, availability, and uses of evidence-based standards of care for pregnant women.

We look forward to working with you this year to ensure that the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act is implemented, as intended by Congress. For more information, please contact KJ Hertz at March of Dimes (khertz@marchofdimes.org).

Sincerely,

AdvaMed
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Alliance for Black NICU Families
Allina Health
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association of Birth Centers
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Women's Association

¹ 2025 March of Dimes Report Card: The State of Maternal and Infant Health for American Families. March of Dimes. 2025. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/reportcard>

² March of Dimes. (2024, February). Long-term health effects of preterm birth.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/birth/long-term-health-effects-preterm-birth>

AngelEye Health
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Birth Center Equity
Black Women Do VBAC
Bobbie
Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.
California Children's Hospital Association
California State University, Sacramento
CDH Research International
Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement
Center for the American Family
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Cerebral Palsy Foundation
Chamber of Mothers
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Children's Hospital Association
Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign, Inc. (CRCEC)
COCOLIFE.BLACK
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
dsm-firmenich na
Eclectic DC
Every Mother Counts
Faith in Public Life Action
Families USA
Family Voices National
Family-Centered Care Taskforce
First Focus Campaign for Children
Flourish Counseling + Consulting
Futures Without Violence
Galactosemia Foundation
General Federation of Women's Clubs
GLO Preemies
Gold Coast Doula, LLC
Hall+istics
Hand to Hold
Haven Midwifery Collective
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies-The Montana Coalition, Inc.
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade
HealthyWomen
Hyperemesis Education & Research Foundation

Illinois Public Health Association
Infinity Doula Services
Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jace's Journey
Kaleida Health Family Planning Center
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
LA Best Babies Network
League of Women Voters Metropolitan Des Moines
Legacy Community Health
Lily's Hope Foundation
Love for Lily
MA Mom Advocates (MAMA) Corp.
Mama Glow
March of Dimes
Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health
Massachusetts Mind the Gap Coalition
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Mocha Moms Inc
Mom Congress
Moment for Parents
MomsRising
MS Black Women's Roundtable
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Diaper Bank Network
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
National League for Nursing
National Perinatal Association
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society
Nemours Children's Health
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New York State Perinatal Association
NICU Parent Network
Nurture KC
Philips North America
Post Partum Support International Nebraska
Postpartum Resource Center of New York
Postpartum Support International-California
PREEMIEWORLD FOUNDATION
Prevent Blindness
Project Sweet Peas
Prolacta Bioscience

Protecting Reproductive Health
PSI-MD
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Saul's Light
Scully & O'Leary LLC
Serene Solutions Counseling & Consulting Services
Serving At-Risk Families Everywhere, Inc.
Seven Starling
Silvie Bells
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Spina Bifida Association
Susan Geissler Consulting
Symonette Strategies & Solutions
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Women's Political Caucus
The 2 Degrees Foundation
The American Society for Reproductive Medicine
The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation
The Kenney Collective, LLC
The Postpartum Adjustment Center
The PPRM Foundation
The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence
The Skylar Project
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The Tender Foundation
The Tiny Miracles Foundation
Tibi Health
Tiny Star foundation
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
United Church of Christ
Well Nested Mother
Women of Reform Judaism
ZERO TO THREE