

PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023

Senators Michael Bennet and John Boozman

In 2021, there were over 3.6 million [live births](#) in the United States, and 10.5% of them were [preterm](#). Preterm birth is the second-leading [cause of death](#) for infants after birth defects, and the 383,979 babies born prematurely have a higher risk of developmental delays, chronic respiratory problems, and vision and hearing impairment.

In addition to the emotional cost of having a preterm baby, there is a significant financial cost. The [medical costs](#) for preterm births is about 4 times greater (\$49,140) than for term infants (\$13,024), and the annual [societal economic cost](#) is an estimated \$25.2 billion.

While preterm birth can happen during any pregnancy, Black and Native American mothers are [disproportionately](#) more likely to deliver prematurely, signaling a need for more research into the causes of preterm birth and interventions to prevent them.

First signed into law in 2006, the *Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Act* authorizes critical federal research, education, and intervention activities to reduce preterm birth and infant mortality. The programs were reauthorized in 2013 and 2018, and are now set to expire on September 30, 2023.

The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023 will:

- Reauthorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's research and programs on preterm birth to improve tracking of national data;
- Reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration's activities aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth;
- Establish an Interagency Working Group to coordinate federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes; and
- Authorize new studies on the financial costs of premature births to society, the factors that impact preterm birth rates, and gaps in public health programs that have caused increases in premature birth.