

June 29, 2023

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senate  
261 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
U.S. Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennet and Boozman:

On behalf of the undersigned 84 organizations, we write to join you in expressing our strong support for the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S.1573/H.R.3226), vital legislation to reauthorize and expand research, education and intervention activities related to preterm birth. It was introduced on May 11, 2023 by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA).

U.S. preterm birth rate has steadily increased since 2014 to 10.5% in 2021, with a significant 4% increase in just one year and the highest recorded rate since 2007. This represents an increase to 383,082 preterm births. Black and Native American women are 62% more likely to have a preterm birth and their babies are twice as likely to die as compared to White women. Preterm birth also accounts for 35.8% of infant deaths in the U.S. and the annual societal economic cost (medical, education, and lost productivity) is an estimated \$25.2 billion.

Although there are some clinical predictors of preterm birth, all pregnant individuals 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, visual and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, and respiratory insufficiency or intestinal insufficiency.<sup>1</sup>

While many risk factors associated with preterm birth have been identified, the “biological basis for many of these risk factors and the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood.”<sup>2</sup> This is particularly true for social and structural disparities. 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.

Among the programs authorized by the PREEMIE Act is CDC’s highly successful Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). PRAMS collects site-specific, population-based data tracking maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy on 81% of births and is used by researchers and state, territory, and local governments to plan and review programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and infants. This legislation will also provide

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<sup>1</sup> Prediction and prevention of spontaneous preterm birth. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 234. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol* 2021;138:e65–90.

<sup>2</sup> Rubens C, Sadovsky Y, LMuglia L, et al. Prevention of preterm birth: Harnessing science to address the global epidemic. *Science Translational Medicine*. 2014; 6(262):262sr5. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3009871.

for a new study on the costs, impact of non-medical factors, gaps in public health programs that lead to prematurity, and calls for recommendations to prevent preterm birth.

We look forward to working with you this year to advance this critical legislation. For more information, please contact Andrew Fullerton, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs, at [afullerton@marchofdimes.org](mailto:afullerton@marchofdimes.org).

Sincerely,

AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Arnold Solutions 53, Incorporated  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
Blue Skies Consultation  
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network  
Calming Nature Doula Service & Center  
CARES Foundation Inc.  
CDH International  
Cerebral Palsy Foundation  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Children's Hospital Association  
dsm firmenich North America  
Educare Learning Network  
Endocrine Society  
Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center  
Etana Tax and Accounting LLC  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
Family Voices NJ  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
Galactosemia Foundation  
Genetic Alliance  
Global Down Syndrome Foundation  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Health Equity Solutions  
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
Ipas

Jericho Road Community Health Center  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
Kaleida Health Family Planning  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LLL Alliance For Breastfeeding Education  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
MTS Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National CMV Foundation  
National Health Law Program  
National League for Nursing  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society  
Nemours Children's Health  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Prevent Blindness  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy  
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association  
Rhia Ventures  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.- Lambda Epsilon Chapter  
Sigma Gamma Rho, Alpha Phi Sigma Chapter Pretty Poodles  
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
Spina Bifida Association  
STChealth  
SWCyril Holdings Inc  
Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
The Collaborative  
The Fibroid Foundation  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (URGE)  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
Zero to Three

CC:

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Sen. Debbie Stabenow  
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar  
Sen. Tina Smith

