FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs 1825 K Street NW Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-775-0436

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray Chair Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Chair House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Roy Blunt Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least \$750 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source used to address the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in each state, territory, and jurisdiction of the United States. While programming varies among states and territories, all of them are working to promote health equity and reduce disparities in access and care experienced most acutely by Black, Tribal, Indigenous and other people of color. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), 92% of all pregnant women, 98% of infants, and 60% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service in FY2019.

States and jurisdictions use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of statewide and community-level maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. These programs save federal and state governments money by ensuring that people receive preventive services to avoid more-costly chronic conditions later in life. Title V programs are at the forefront of addressing maternal mortality and morbidity, working to identify causes of pregnancy-associated deaths and severe complications, devising plans to address those causes, and implementing programs to prevent future deaths and near misses. Title V MCH Block Grant programs also work diligently to train the next generation of maternal and child health workforce leaders as well as address emerging issues and public health emergencies that impact maternal and child health.

During the past year, Title V-funded programs have been at the forefront of COVID-19 response efforts with a particular focus on addressing the unique impacts of the pandemic on maternal and child health populations. The flexible nature of the Title V MCH Block Grant has made it an easily deployable source of support for states to meet locally identified needs and foster positive maternal and child health outcomes

during the public health emergency. States have utilized Title V MCH Block Grant funding during the COVID-19 pandemic to operate hotlines, conduct case investigations and contact tracing, and support public education about the pandemic. Additional innovations in providing maternal and child health services during the COVID-19 pandemic have included purchasing blood pressure cuffs for virtual monitoring of pregnant patients; conducting virtual safe sleep classes; and distributing safe sleep spaces like portable cribs and other newborn essentials like diapers without person-to-person contact. The Title V MCH Block Grant is well-positioned to continue addressing maternal and child health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the program needs additional funding to do so effectively.

Further gaps that can be filled via Title V programs include: supporting transition to telehealth services; ensuring equitable access to universal COVID-19 testing of pregnant patients; offering virtual childbirth, breastfeeding, and parenting classes; conducting communications campaigns around child abuse prevention and the importance of continuing routine maternal and childhood immunization; assuring timeliness of screening and follow-up for heritable disorders and newborn hearing; providing critical information to pregnant women, new mothers, and their families; and ensuring access to medication and equipment for children with special health care needs and respite care for their families, among other activities.

We thank you for funding the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$712.7 million in FY2021 and **urge you to provide an increase to at least \$750 million in FY2022 for both the state formula fund and discretionary portions of the block grant** to meet the increased demands being placed on the Block Grant. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Amy Haddad at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-266-3045 or ahaddad@amchp.org.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

Academic Pediatric Association

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for Black NICU Families

America's Essential Hospitals

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association on Health and Disability

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Physicians

American Heart Association

American Medical Association

American Nurses Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program

Directors

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Autism Society of America

Black Mamas Matter Alliance

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Centro Pediatrico de Lactancia y Crianza

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Defense Fund

CityMatCH

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service,

Inc. (COA)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Equitable Maternal Health Coaltion

Every Mother Counts

Family Voices

First Focus Campaign for Children

Futures Without Violence

GLO Preemies

Guttmacher Institute

HealthConnect One

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia

Healthy Teen Network

Hemophilia Federation of America

Hyperemesis Education and Research (HER) Foundation

Infant Nutrition Council of America

Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement

International Stillbirth Alliance

Lakeshore Foundation

Lamaze International

Lifeline4Moms, University of Massachusetts Medical School

March for Moms

March of Dimes

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Mom Congress

MomsRising

NAPHSIS

NARAL Pro-Choice America

NASTAD

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Birth Equity Collaborative

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Healthy Start Association

National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ

National League for Nursing

National Network of Public Health Institutes

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

National Partnership for Women and Families

National WIC Association

Nurse-Family Partnership

Organization of Teratology Information Specialists

Parents as Teachers

Patient Safety Movement Foundation

Pediatric Policy Council

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Postpartum Support International

Power to Decide

PreemieWorld, LLC

Prevent Blindness

Prevention Institute

Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT)

RESULTS

Safe States Alliance

School-Based Health Alliance

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Pediatric Research

Society for Reproductive Investigation

Society for Women's Health Research

Spina Bifida Association

The Jewish Federations of North America

The Joint Commission

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

The Shane Foundation

Trust for America's Health

U.S. Breastfeeding Committee

ZERO TO THREE