

**FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT**

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

April 29, 2024

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least **\$1 billion** for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the **FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill**, reflecting increases for both the state formula fund as well as Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 700 pregnancy-related deaths occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 80 percent of these deaths are preventable. Further, CDC recently released provisional data indicating that the total infant mortality rate in the U.S. increased by 3% from 2021-2022, and additional CDC data show a marked increase in maternal deaths during the pandemic. *The Title V MCH Block Grant is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of all women and children.*

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source that addresses the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and each territory. State health departments 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. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), *Title V MCH Block Grant funding provided access to health care and public health services for an estimated 61 million people in FY22, including 99% of infants, 93% of all pregnant people, and 61% of children nationwide.*

While programming varies among states, areas of focus among Title V MCH programs include reducing maternal mortality, infant mortality, stillbirth, and preventable diseases among children; advancing health equity and eliminating racial, ethnic, and geographic inequities in maternal and child health outcomes; assuring access to quality maternal and child health services, especially for families with incomes below the federal poverty level or who live in areas with limited availability of health services; and promoting family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children with special health care needs. These programs ensure people receive preventive services to avoid more costly chronic conditions later in life, thereby saving federal and state governments money.

Further, the SPRANS portion of the Title V Block Grant, particularly its flexibility, is an essential component to achieving Title V's mission of ensuring the health of the nation's mothers, women, children and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs, and their families. In FY 2023, \$212.1 million in SPRANS funding supported the work of 201 grantees across 59 states and jurisdictions by funding innovation, training and workforce, technical assistance, quality improvement, and other mission-critical efforts, including genetics services, newborn screening, and treatments for sickle cell disease and hemophilia. A loss of SPRANS funding could detrimentally impact MCH populations, providers, public health professionals, and trainees in a sweeping way.

The MCH workforce and programs need sustained, increased investment to best serve the nation's maternal and child health populations now and into the future. While we were disappointed to see a decrease in funding for the Title V MCH Block Grant to \$813.7 million in FY 2024, we are grateful that Congress completed its FY 2024 appropriations work. Moving forward, we **urge you to provide an increase to at least \$1 billion in FY2025, including robust increases in both the state formula fund and for SPRANS**, to promote sustainable public health programs centered on the needs of our nation's women, children, and families. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Sherie Lou Santos at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-964-2411 or [ssantos@amchp.org](mailto:ssantos@amchp.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
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 Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
APS Foundation of America, Inc

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Baby Cafe USA  
BirthRoot Community Doula Alliance  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc. (BMMA)  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Perinatal Mental Health  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Committee for Children  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Every Mother Counts  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
FASD United  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
George Washington University  
GLO Premies  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Beginnings  
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.  
Healthy Families America  
Healthy Teen Network  
HealthyWomen  
Help Me Grow National Center  
Hyperemesis Education & Research Foundation  
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement  
Lifeline for Families Center and Lifeline for Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Mom Congress  
MomsRising  
NASTAD  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA)  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National WIC Association  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Parents as Teachers  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health  
Postpartum Support International  
Power to Decide  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevention Institute  
Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America)  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
The 2 Degrees Foundation  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The PPROM Foundation  
The Shane Foundation  
TN AHEC at Meharry Medical College  
Trust for America's Health  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
University at Albany School of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program  
ZERO TO THREE