

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 Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
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 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 Coalition
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
PremieWorld, 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