March 26, 2026

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 Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the 339 organizations and institutions dedicated to improving maternal and child health, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your steadfast commitment to supporting programs aimed at reducing the incidence of stillbirth, so that fewer families endure this heartbreaking tragedy. Thanks to your committees' leadership, stillbirth is finally beginning to receive the recognition and attention that it has long deserved, and we cannot afford to lose this hard-won momentum.

We are grateful to see Congress acknowledge the urgent need to address our nation's stillbirth crisis with the $250,000 increase in funding for stillbirth prevention in Fiscal Year 2026. **We respectfully request level funding of $2 million to support the continued implementation of the Stillbirth Working Group's recommendations under the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services as you consider the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill. We are also requesting a $100,000 increase, for a total of $1 million, for the CDC's Fetal Death program to support the advancement of stillbirth surveillance activities, including identifying risk factors, as outlined in the Stillbirth Working Group's priorities.**

A pregnancy ending in stillbirth is a tragedy. In the United States, there are more than 20,000 stillbirths every year—that's 60 per day—often in healthy, seemingly low-risk pregnancies. Stillbirth affects 1 in 175 pregnancies and does not discriminate: impacting women of all races, ethnicities, income levels, and ages. Mothers who experience a stillbirth are more likely to die after delivery, and severe maternal morbidity is nearly five times more common than in those whose babies are born alive. Studies indicate that at least 25 percent of U.S. stillbirths are preventable, meaning more than 5,000 stillbirths could be prevented every year. Yet despite staggering statistics and decades of medical advances, the U.S. stillbirth rate has not significantly improved over the last 20 years.[1]

To address this public health issue, Congress provided initial funding of $750,000 in FY 2022 for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a Stillbirth Working Group, a multidisciplinary team of experts across the public and private sectors tasked with identifying barriers to data collection, examining known risk factors and high-risk communities, and assessing the psychological impact and treatment for mothers. Recognizing the need for expanded efforts, Congress provided $1.75 million for activities of the Stillbirth Working Group in FY 2023. The Stillbirth Working Group released its final report, *Working to Address the Tragedy of Stillbirth*, on March 15, 2023, with important recommendations that included, "creating and supporting a full research agenda, including research on both known and unknown risk factors and physiologic mechanisms to drive the development of interventions to ultimately prevent stillbirth."[2] A follow up report, published in July 2024, provided implementation recommendations, including emphasizing the need for high-quality data. Meaningful research and quality data is needed to drive effective prevention strategies and improve birth outcomes.[3] Building on this progress, Congress sustained funding of $1.75 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 and provided an increase of $250,000 in FY 2026 to prioritize the Department-wide implementation of the Working Group's recommendations and promote evidence-based stillbirth awareness and prevention activities across HHS.

We respectfully urge the Subcommittee to again provide $2 million to the Office of the Secretary in FY 2027 to support continued implementation of the Stillbirth Working Group's recommendations and $1 million for the

CDC's Fetal Death program. This funding will support ongoing efforts to improve stillbirth data collection, reporting, and timeliness at state health departments and vital statistics units.

Every mother—urban, suburban, or rural—should have a healthy birth outcome. But unfortunately, far too many do not. With accurate and timely data, we can better understand the causes of stillbirth and develop effective prevention strategies. Our country continues to face a maternal and infant health crisis; despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, outcomes remain unacceptably poor. Ongoing funding for the Stillbirth Working Group will help ensure U.S. families thrive, more babies survive, and sustain momentum in addressing this preventable tragedy.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of stillbirth prevention efforts, and hope that it continues as we work together to bring about meaningful and lasting change! Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to direct questions to Debbie Haine Vijayvergiya at debbie@dlh-associates.com.

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[1] *What is Stillbirth? | CDC*. (2022, September 29). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/stillbirth/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/stillbirth/facts.html

[2] "Stillbirth Working Group of Council." Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, U.S. Department of Health, and Human Services, https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/advisory/council/stillbirth-working-group-of-council

[3] Page, J. M., Thorsten, V., Reddy, U. M., Dudley, D. J., Hogue, C. J. R., Saade, G. R., Pinar, H., Parker, C. B., Conway, D., Stoll, B. J., Coustan, D., Bukowski, R., Varner, M. W., Goldenberg, R. L., Gibbins, K., & Silver, R. M. (2018). Potentially Preventable Stillbirth in a Diverse U.S. Cohort. *Obstetrics and gynecology*, *131*(2), 336–343. https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000002421

Sincerely,
1st Breath
2 Degrees Foundation
4th Trimester Arizona
A Better Balance
Aaliyah in Action
ACOG Vermont
Adalyn Rose Foundation
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Alana Rose Foundation
Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics - Vermont Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American Medical Association (AMA)
Amniotic Fluid Embolism Foundation (AFE)
Angels Born Still
Ashlie's Embrace
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
Association of Perinatal Networks (APN)
Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
ATIME
AWHONN NY
Babies Remembered
Baby Loss Family Advisors
Babyscripts

Barrett’s Bears Ministry
Bay State Birth Coalition
Bereaved Parents of Madison, Inc.
Birth Equity & Justice Massachusetts (BEJMA)
Birth In Color RVA
Birthmark Doula Collective
BirthNet
BirthWell Partners Community Doula Project
Brandy Kelley Counseling, PLLC
Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network, Inc.
Building Bright Futures
Centering Healthcare Institute
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA)
Community Care Network of Kansas
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Community Midwives LLC
Conscious Moms
COPE
Core Values, LLC
Cradling Memories - The Milo James Coe Foundation
Cribs for Kids, Inc.
Cultivate Counseling
Dana Evans, PLLC
Denver Share
Doula Trainings International, LLC
Dr. Shalon Maternal Action Project
Durham’s Maternal Stress Free Zone DH Inc.
Early Childhood Alliance
East Cascade Women’s Group
Emalyn’s Angels
Embrace Foundation
Empty Arms Bereavement Support
Empty Arms Vermont
Every Baby Guilford
Every Breath Coalition
Every Mother Counts
Expecting Health
Families Forward Resource Center
Families of Color Seattle
Family Health Initiatives
First Candle
First Step Family Support Center
First Year Cleveland
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS)
Granny's Birth Initiative

griefHaven
Griffin Cares Foundation
Groundwork Ohio
Group B Strep International
GROW Prenatal & Family Center
Healing Our Hearts Foundation
Healing with Wisdom
Health Action New Mexico
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
Healthier Moms and Babies Inc.
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.
Healthy Black Pregnancies
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies - The Montana Coalition
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties, Inc.
HealthyWomen
Heart & Sol Collective
Held Your Whole Life
HER (Hyperemesis Education and Research) Foundation
Hope After Loss Clinic at the University of Wisconsin
Hope for HIE
I Was Supposed To Have A Baby
I Will Carry You: Birth & Bereavement Doula Services
ICU baby
In The Arms of Jesus Remembrance Photography and Grief Support
Infant Loss Resources
International Partnership for Perinatal Excellence
Jace's Journey
Jamir's Heart
Julianna Grace Ministry
JustActions
Kai Reproductive Counseling
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Birth Equity Network
Kansas Birth Justice Society
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network, Inc.
Kansas Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
Kentucky Primary Care Association
Las Cruces Doula
League of Women Voters Metropolitan Des Moines
Liam Lives Foundation Inc.
Lifeline for Families Center and Lifeline for Moms Program at UMASS Chan Medical School
Light of Love Coaching
Little Love Foundation Project
Louisiana Public Health Institute

Loved by Lincoln
M.A.M.A. Mom's Advocate & Maternal Advisor, LLC.
M.E.N.D. - Chicagoland Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Columbus Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter
M.E.N.D. - East Valley Area Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Greater Houston Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Mid-Michigan Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Northwest Washington Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Southwest Missouri Chapter
M.E.N.D. - Tulsa Chapter
M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death)
Maddie's Footprints
Madison's Closet
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Mother + Company
Maine Public Health Association
March of Dimes
Massachusetts Mind the Gap Coalition (Formerly Mass PPD Fund)
Maternal and Family Health Services
Maternal Mental Health and Wellness
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Maternity Care Coalition
Mattie's Memory Inc.
Measure the Placenta
Melanin Mass Moms
Melinated Moms
Mera's Mission
Middlesex Regional Black Nurses
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii
Mikayla's Grace
Minnesota Center for Stillbirth and Infant Death
MISS Foundation
Missing Pieces Support Group
Modern Mind Women's Health
Mom Congress
Mom Life Counseling, LLC
MomsRising
Mother IS Supreme, Inc.
Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network of South Central New York, Inc.
NAIOMI Foundation
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Blood Clot Alliance
National CMV Foundation
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)

National League for Nursing
National Perinatal Association
NechamaComfort
Neighborhood Birth Center
Nemours Children's Health
New Brunswick Area NAACP
New Creation Family Church
New Futures
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
New Mexico Doula Association
New York State Perinatal Association
NICU Parent Network
Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep
Nurture KC
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Oklahoma Midwives Alliance
Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank
Open Arms Perinatal Services
Parent Trust for Washington Children
Parents as Teachers National Center
Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey
Patient Safety Movement Foundation
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Perinatal Health Equity Initiative
Perinatal Support Washington
Poisera Inc.
Postpartum Resource Center of New York
Postpartum Support Center
Postpartum Support International
Postpartum Support International-Utah
Postpartum Support Virginia
PPROM Foundation
Preeclampsia Foundation
PreemieWorld Foundation, Inc.
Propa City Community Outreach
Providing Mothers Joy Inc.
PSI Kansas
PSI North Carolina
PSI-DE
Public Health Solutions
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy
R Baby Foundation
REACH CNY, Inc.
Reed Counseling and Consulting
Remembering Rowan
Reproductive and Placental Research Unit, Yale University
Return To Zero: HOPE

Rising Hope Counseling and Wellness
Rooted counseling services
Ryker's Rainbow
Sankofa Reproductive Health and Healing Center
Saul's Light
Selah Care Farm
Seleni Institute
Shades of Blue Project
Shafia Monroe Consulting/Birthing CHANGE
Share of Idaho
Share Parents of Utah
Share Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support, Inc.
Share Support Group of Colorado Springs
Silvie Bells
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)
Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI)
Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative
Speaking of Birth
St. George Share
Star Legacy Foundation
Star Legacy Foundation - Chicago Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Idaho (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - Kansas City Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Maine (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - Maryland (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - Minnesota (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - Montana (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - Nebraska (Statewide Chapter)
Star Legacy Foundation - New York Metro Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Orlando Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - San Antonio Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - San Diego Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Sandhills Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - South Florida Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Triangle Area Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - West Michigan Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Western New York Chapter
Star Legacy Foundation - Western Washington Chapter
Start Healing Together
Step By Step Family Support Center
Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group (International Stillbirth Alliance)
Support Group For Mothers
Swaying Saguaro Doula Services
Sweet Grace Ministries
Tender Lily Care
The Butterfly Suite

The Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice
The Compassionate Friends Honolulu Chapter
The EMA Project
The Finley Project
The Healing Place
The Honey Comb
The Iris Fund
The Little Timmy Project
The Marigold Foundation
The Massachusetts Center for Unexpected Infant & Child Death
The Natalie Foundation
The New Orleans Maternal & Child Health Coalition
The Orsini Way
The Postpartum Adjustment Center
The Shane Foundation
The Skylar Project
The Slade Thomas Foundation
The Still Remembered Project
The Tara Hansen Foundation
The Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation
The TEARS Foundation
The TEARS Foundation - Alabama (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Alaska (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Arizona (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Central California
The TEARS Foundation - Central Texas
The TEARS Foundation - Colorado (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Delaware (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - District of Columbia Chapter
The TEARS Foundation - Florida (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Georgia (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Hill Country
The TEARS Foundation - Idaho (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Illinois (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Indiana (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Maryland (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Massachusetts (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Michigan (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - New Hampshire (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - New Jersey (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - New York (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - North Carolina (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - North Dakota (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Pennsylvania (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - South Carolina (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Southern California
The TEARS Foundation - Washington (Statewide Chapter)

The TEARS Foundation - West Virginia (Statewide Chapter)
The TEARS Foundation - Wyoming (Statewide Chapter)
The University of Vermont Health Network
Three Little Birds Perinatal
TogetherWell Therapy
Tulsa Birth Equity Initiative
Unitarian Universalist Faith Action NJ
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
University of Utah Health
University of Utah Stillbirth Center of Excellence
Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition
Vermont AWHONN
Vermont Medical Society
Vermont Midwives Association
Vermont Public Health Association
Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
Walk in Sunshine Charitable Trust
Walk With Me
Weighted Angels
Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.
What to Expect Project
Wildflower Center for Emotional Health PLLC.
Will’s Way Foundation
Wisconsin Center for Stillbirth and Infant Death
Wisconsin Doulas Association
Wisconsin Grief Collective
Women and Children Counseling, Consulting, & Educating LLC
Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative
Zeal of Xander, Inc.