

# The Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act

**In 2020 the U.S. lost 21,000 babies to stillbirth, according to the CDC.**

**There are proven solutions to save babies NOW.**

- Stillbirth is defined as the loss of a baby between 20 and 40+ weeks of pregnancy.
- This **bipartisan** legislation would add stillbirth and stillbirth prevention to Title V of the Social Security Act – something that has been lacking since the introduction of Title V funding back in 1935. No additional funding is associated with this legislation.
- Racial disparities persist, with 1 out of every 97 Black pregnancies ending in stillbirth. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Indigenous women are also at greater risk of losing their babies.
- **The tragedy of stillbirth can be avoided in many cases.** Research shows up to one fourth of all stillbirths can be prevented. For example, since the evidence-based *Count the Kicks* public health campaign launched in Iowa. In the first 10 years of the campaign, Iowa has experienced a 32 percent reduction in its stillbirth rate while the national stillbirth rate has remained relatively stagnant.
- Based on scientific evidence, *Count the Kicks* educates expectant parents about the importance of tracking fetal movement in the third trimester of pregnancy. Research shows a change in what's normal is an indication there may be a critical health issue developing with mom or baby. **The CDC's HearHer campaign lists a change in a baby's movements as one of its 15 urgent maternal warning signs.**
- With programs to educate and empower expectant parents with stillbirth prevention education, **Congress can save thousands of babies from preventable stillbirth each year.**
- Research shows that there is a link between stillbirth and maternal mortality and morbidity. In fact, the risk of severe maternal morbidity is more than four times higher among stillbirth deliveries than live births. Efforts to reduce stillbirth could also improve outcomes for moms.
- During their 2023 March for Change, the March of Dimes advocated for the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act and the SHINE for Autumn Act as important to their policy mission to improve outcomes for moms and babies.
- The following organizations are *original* endorsers of the bill during the 118th Congress: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP), Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH), National Education Association (NEA), Healthy Birth Day, March of Dimes, 2 Degrees Foundation, PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy, Reproductive and Placental Research Unit Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences Yale University School of Medicine, 1st Breath, Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE) Foundation, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), Every Mother Counts, M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death), Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance, Measure the Placenta, Mom Congress, Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (formerly 2020 Mom), Postpartum Support International, Return to Zero: H.O.P.E., RH Impact, Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI), Start Healing Together, SUDC Foundation, What to Expect Project, Aaliyah in Action, Mattie's Memory, March for Moms, Ninde Doula Program-Division of Indian Work, Healing Our Hearts Foundation, In the Arms of Jesus Remembrance Photography and Grief Support, Birth and Breastfeeding in Color Inc., Nurturing Babyhood N' Beyond, LLC, Haven, Kansas Birth Justice Society, Mera's Mission, ICP Care