

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Eliot Engel
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Engel and Stivers,

On behalf of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, Lamaze International, March for Moms, March of Dimes, National Partnership for Women & Families, and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, thank you for introducing the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act. Once enacted, this important legislation will improve the delivery of maternity care and truly bend the maternity care cost curve.

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act supports new and existing perinatal quality collaboratives in improving birth outcomes and reducing health care costs in communities and health care systems across the country. Collaboratives share best practices and lessons learned with each other, but are each operated and controlled at the state and regional level, meaning that solutions and approaches to innovation are locally relevant. By fostering these collaboratives, diverse groups of stakeholders help reduce preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by encouraging local providers through the adoption of best practices, including eliminating elective deliveries before 39 weeks, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing cesarean sections, and much more. Improved outcomes will mean healthier moms, healthier babies, and cost savings for the entire health care system.

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act would also improve the quality of care for pregnant women and infants by directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a core set of evidence-based perinatal quality measures to be used in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), improving care for pregnant women and infants enrolled in those programs. As active participants in the review, endorsement, and dissemination of maternal and child health care quality measures, our organizations strongly support the focus your bill brings to perinatal quality issues and care delivery. While HHS currently has a core set of quality measures for adults and a separate one for children, there is a great need for a single, recognized core set for pregnant women and their babies. Quality care and better data will lead to improved health outcomes, which in turn will reduce health expenditures for patients, the states, and the federal government.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to improving the care delivered to moms and babies. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Lamaze International
March for Moms
March of Dimes
National Partnership for Women & Families
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine*