



December 17, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 560,000 physicians and medical students represented by the combined memberships of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Psychiatric Association, thank you for passing H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act. This landmark legislation, sponsored by Representatives Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ryan Costello (R-PA), and Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), is a critical step in our efforts to eliminate preventable maternal deaths.

Our members are the frontline physicians who care for patients in rural, urban, wealthy, and low-income communities, and are the foundation of the American health care system. Our collective membership is committed to addressing the rising rates of maternal mortality in the United States. This legislation will strengthen maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs) – interdisciplinary groups of local experts in maternal, infant, and public health – to examine maternal death cases and identify locally relevant ways to prevent future deaths.

We applaud your commitment to addressing rising rates of maternal mortality in the United States and look forward to continuing to work with you to improve maternal health.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association