



January 15, 2019

House Families, Children and Seniors Committee
RE: House Resolution 123

Chair Crawford and members of the committee:

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health and our members support House Resolution 123 and thank Rep. Brenda Carter for highlighting the critical issue of maternal mortality in our state, and even more importantly the need to address the disparities in maternal health outcomes by race.

Michigan's rate of both infant and maternal mortality exceed the national average because we must, collectively, do more to address the rates of maternal injury and loss within our African American and Native American populations.

With growing awareness and purposeful efforts communities in partnership with families and providers are working to address the underlying causes of the disparities and provide every woman, every baby and every family with equitable opportunities to survive and thrive. They need support through policy and appropriations – at the state and federal level.

Congress did pass two laws in 2018 P.L. 115-344 the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act and P.L. 115-320 the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act that is providing limited resources to some states but more must be done including movement of H.R. 4995 and 4996 to help hospitals implement clinically proven best practices, fund extension of Medicaid coverage for women to one year postpartum, increase access to maternity care and target resources to areas with the highest racial disparities.

Much can be gleaned from the most recent report of the Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Program. You can find the full report at:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MMMS_2011-2015_Fact_Sheet_FINAL_635164_7.pdf

Michigan has one of the longest standing surveillance systems in the country to review data from maternal deaths and while other states have recently received funding to catch up, we need support to help us implement the most recent recommendations:

- Increase the use and implementation of the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) hemorrhage, hypertension, and opioid bundles.
- Enhance education and coordination with lay midwives around timely referral of women to hospitals as appropriate.
- Develop and implement community education initiatives regarding Narcan availability and use.
- Develop and implement community education initiatives about postpartum depression.
- Promote appropriate evaluation of all women who present to the emergency department with severe pain.
- Promote earlier postpartum follow-up by prenatal care providers for those patients with severe mental health issues.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County Public Health Department

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health

Michigan School Health Coordinators' Association

Michigan State Medical Society

School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan

Washtenaw County Public Health

GENERAL MEMBERS

Maternal-Newborn Nurse Professionals of Southeastern Michigan

Michigan Association of School Nurses

Michigan Section, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Michigan Chapter, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Nurse Administrators Forum

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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- Advocate for wellness checks for mothers be conducted by CPS and community mental health following the removal of a child from the home.
- Implement guidelines regarding follow-up for women who score high on postpartum depression screenings.
- Develop and implement an expanded awareness campaign around the Michigan mandatory maternal death reporting

We welcome your support on the state level for many of these recommendations. Today we ask for your support of HR 123. It is timely resolution and will encourage federal partners to do more in states like Michigan to help us ensure that no woman, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or income, dies a preventable death.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy C. Pagan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Executive Director