

November 3, 2025

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

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 Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned 126 organizations representing public health, health professionals, academic institutions, and families are writing to express opposition to the proposed cuts to the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bills being separately considered in both chambers.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source to address the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of each state's maternal and child health populations. State and local health departments use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of statewide and community-level maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Title V MCH Block Grant funding provided access to health care and public health services for an estimated 59 million people in FY 2023, including 94 percent of pregnant women, 98 percent of infants, and 59 percent of children nationwide.

We appreciate the committees' recognition of the work done by individual states as reflected in the proposed level funding of the state grant portion of the Title V MCH Block Grant. However, we remain deeply concerned about the proposed reductions in funding for the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) portion. While the Senate recommended a \$14 million decrease for SPRANS, the House of Representatives proposed a \$46.449 million reduction. This marks the third consecutive year that the House of Representatives has proposed substantial cuts to SPRANS funding.

SPRANS works to advance MCH by supporting research, workforce development, and systems-level innovation. These grants enable health departments and universities to develop and implement researched-based interventions, expand training opportunities, and strengthen the pipeline of skilled MCH professionals. For instance, the University of Alabama at Birmingham

receives nearly \$1 million of funding through the State Maternal Health Innovation Program to support comprehensive efforts aimed at improving maternal health outcomes across the state. Similarly, the University of Wisconsin is a recipient of the Maternal and Child Health Public Health Catalyst Program, which enhances public health curricula and prepares emerging leaders in the MCH field. These targeted investments not only bolster the capacity of academic institutions to address health gaps but also foster partnerships between universities, state health agencies, and communities to drive measurable improvements in MCH outcomes nationwide.

In FY 2024, \$210.1 million in SPRANS funding supported the work of nearly 281 grantees across 59 states and jurisdictions by funding innovation, training and workforce, technical assistance, quality improvement, and other mission-critical efforts, including genetics services, newborn screening, and treatments for sickle cell disease and hemophilia. A loss of SPRANS funding could detrimentally impact MCH populations, providers, public health professionals, and trainees in a sweeping way:

- Approximately 50,000 pregnant women, mothers, and providers would lose on-demand access to expert consultation about exposures (e.g., medications, vaccinations, chemicals, herbal products, and substances of abuse) during pregnancy each year.
- Forty communities would lose funding for Healthy Tomorrows projects that increase access to care and reduce health care costs through health promotion, prevention, and early intervention.
- More than 53,500 individuals with blood conditions, including Hemophilia, Thalassemia, Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia, and other genetic disorders, would lose access to specialized comprehensive care, increasing the likelihood of life-threatening bleeding, severe anemia, and early death.
- More than 9,400 clinical and public health trainees would lose access to specialized undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate MCH training, including specialized training in nutrition, public health, and care for children and youth with complex needs.
- More than 74,000 practicing clinical and public health professionals would lose access to continuing education on the aforementioned critical MCH topics.
- MCH initiatives would lose access to technical assistance that helps them more efficiently and effectively implement programs to improve the health of mothers, children, and families. For example, SPRANS funding supported the review and addition of seven new practices to the Association of Maternal & Child Health's Innovation Hub database in the spring and fall of 2025—a frequently used online platform to share effective practices and policies to improve MCH.
- A decrease in funding for the MCH Public Health Catalyst program would undermine schools of public health in building robust maternal and child health training programs, ultimately shrinking the future MCH workforce and reducing capacity to address ongoing public health challenges.
- States and jurisdictions would lose access to critical MCH data, analysis, and support.
 - The State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) Program supports data analysis and translation of data into action at the state and jurisdictional level. Reduced funding would negatively impact data sharing and analysis necessary for state and local public health programs and health care systems to respond to evolving

- public health information, including emergencies and emerging issues/threats.
- Many states use SSDI funds to support MCH epidemiologists or access critical data to inform program planning and action related to emergencies and emerging issues and threats. With these funds, State Title V programs also link program data to data from systems such as vital records (birth and death), Medicaid, newborn screening, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), etc. These data linkages provide essential information to state and local programs so they can effectively support the health and wellbeing of mothers, children, and families throughout the country.
- Maternal and child health programs in every state would be hindered from leveraging national and state data to assess the needs of families and measure their performance in serving families. For example, states have used information from research and analysis to evaluate the need for behavioral health services for children, produce reports on topics such as developmental disabilities, expand initiatives, and develop comprehensive early childhood health systems. Moreover, funding for research and analysis can inform clinical care guidelines and recommendations for maternal and pediatric populations.

We know your committees are faced with difficult decisions to keep total funding at certain spending levels. As you work to advance the FY 2026 Labor-HHS bill, we urge you to increase funding for the SPRANS portion of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Service Block Grant in order to support the vast needs of MCH populations across the country. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Sherie Lou Santos at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-964-2411 or SSantos@amchp.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

2 Degrees Foundation
 4th Trimester Arizona
 African American Mayors Association
 Aligned HOPE
 Alliance for Black NICU Families
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Association of Birth Centers
 American Association on Health and Disability
 American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
 American College of Nurse Midwives Michigan Affiliate
 American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
 American College of Physicians
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 American Heart Association
 American Nurses Association
 APS Foundation of America
 Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
 Association of Public Health Nurses

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
AWHONN-Massachusetts Section
Baby Cafe USA
Birth By Queens Birth and Wellness Center
Black Midwifery Collective
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Centering Healthcare Institute
Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund
Collaborative Support Services Inc.Early Childhood Action Strategy
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials
Comagine Health
Counseling for Reproductive Health & Healing
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Education Development Center
EverThrive Illinois
Every Mother Counts
Families USA
Family Connects International
FASD United
Fertile Ground Family Services, Inc
Firefly
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
GLO Preemies
Hand to Hold
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks
Hawai'i Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative
HealthConnect One
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies-The Montana Coalition
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Help Me Grow National Center
Hyperemesis Education and Research Foundation
I Be Black Girl
Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement
Iowa Chapter of National Association of Nurse Practitioners
Journeys Therapy Services, PLLC
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Kentucky Health Departments Association
Lakeshore Foundation
Lifeline for Families Center & Lifeline for Moms program at UMass Chan Medical School

Mamaya Health
March of Dimes
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Maternity Care Coalition
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Mindy Levin-Lee, LCSW, CCTP
MomsRising
Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Healthy Start Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
NC Public Health Association
Nevada Public Health Association
NYU Grossman School of Medicine
Oklahoma Infant Transition Program, Dept of Neonatology, OU Health Sciences
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Postpartum Support International
Postpartum Support International - Delaware Chapter
Postpartum Support International-Arizona Chapter
Power to Decide
Preeclampsia Foundation
Prepared to Prosper, LLC
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
Prevention Institute
Primo Center for Women and Children
Reproductive Freedom for All
Resilient Impact Counseling Services, LLC
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Sacramento Maternal Health Collaborative
School of Public Health, University of Illinois Chicago
Selah's Red Tent
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Speaking of Birth
Spina Bifida Association
Tagata Moana Hui Foundation
The Arc Michigan

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey
The Honeycomb House
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Partnership for Women and Families
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
United Cerebral Palsy
University at Albany Maternal and Child Health Program
UT AAP
Voices for Virginia's Children
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
Wellspring Women's Counseling
Wildflower Health
ZERO TO THREE