



February 21, 2019

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Gillibrand and Representative DeLauro:

March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, is pleased to express our support for H.R. 1185/S. 463, the Family And Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act of 2019.

The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that does not offer working mothers paid time off to care for a new child. Most Americans will face the demands of having a baby, developing a serious illness, or needing to care for a sick loved one at some point in their lives. In those cases, retaining some level of income can mean the difference between being able to maintain stability and financial independence versus facing the challenges of having no income to support themselves and their loved ones.

March of Dimes supports the establishment of paid family leave systems that make benefits available to workers while also distributing the responsibility for funding this system among employers. The FAMILY Act would create a self-sustaining national family and medical leave insurance fund to provide workers with up to 12 weeks of partial income, with a capped monthly maximum amount of \$1,000 per week. This leave would be available to individuals to care for their own serious health conditions, including pregnancy and childbirth recovery, as well as other serious health conditions of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner, the birth or adoption of a child, and for military caregiving and leave purposes.

March of Dimes looks forward to working with you to advance paid family leave legislation on a bipartisan basis this Congress. If we can provide further information or otherwise be of assistance, please contact KJ Hertz, Director of Federal Affairs at khertz@marchofdimes.org or 202-659-1800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacey D. Stewart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stacey D. Stewart
President