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April 6, 2018

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Engel and Representative Stivers,

On behalf of 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, I would like to express our support for the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act. We appreciate your leadership on this important maternal and child health initiative.

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act would improve quality of care, health outcomes, and value of maternity care by developing evidence-based perinatal quality measures and supporting maternity care quality cooperatives. As an active participant in the review, endorsement, and dissemination of maternal and child health care quality measures, March of Dimes appreciates the additional focus this bill brings to perinatal quality issues. The legislation would require the development and regular review of core "mother and infant care" quality measures that could be adopted throughout the health care system to gauge progress in improving perinatal health care quality. In addition, it would provide dedicated funding for maternity care quality collaboratives that undertake multi-stakeholder projects which aim to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity rates, reduce hospital readmission rates, improve the appropriate use of cesarean section, and improve breast-feeding rates.

Robust and comprehensive quality measures play an important role in our health care system, and it is vital that all measures be appropriately developed, structured, implemented, and tracked. March of Dimes' programs to end early elective deliveries are structured around the Joint Commission's performance measure on this issue, and help institutions implement, track, and improve upon this key measure. In addition, we consistently urge state legislatures and regulatory bodies to adopt a uniform set of perinatal measures to enable the tracking of maternal and child health consistently across states. The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act brings additional focus to vital efforts like these, and continues to build upon the strong and growing foundation of maternal and child health quality measures.

Thank you again for your leadership in sponsoring the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act. We look forward to working with you toward its successful enactment.

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