



September 24, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of March of Dimes, the nonprofit organization leading the fight for the health of all moms and babies, we urge swift passage of the bi-partisan *Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act (S.1658/H.R. 3110)*.

We began that fight more than 80 years ago as an organization dedicated to eradicating polio in the U.S., a goal that we achieved. We continue that fight today as we work to address some of the biggest threats to moms and babies, such as premature birth and maternal mortality, through research, education, programs and advocacy.

March of Dimes' ongoing work to improve maternal and infant health is more important than ever as our nation is in the midst of a dire maternal and infant health crisis. Rates of preterm birth are increasing, the U.S. is one of the most dangerous places to give birth in the developed world, and there are unacceptable disparities in birth outcomes between women and infants of color and their White peers. We also know, the health and well-being of mothers and infants are inextricably linked. By improving the health of, and conditions for, women before, during and between pregnancies, we can improve outcomes for both them and their infants. But we have many challenges before us.

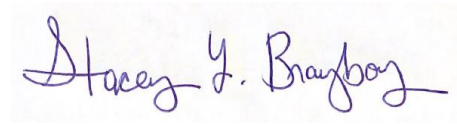
One of those challenges is ensuring the ability for a mother to feed her infant after returning to the workplace. When a new mother returns to work after having a baby, she will need continued support in the workplace to ensure she can continue to breastfeed her child if she chooses. Exclusive breastfeeding has a significant impact the health of the baby, as well as benefits for moms. However, returning to work can make continuing the breastfeeding relationship between mothers and their infants very difficult, especially if employers don't provide employees with adequate break time and an appropriate space to express breastmilk during the workday.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) included provisions that required certain employers to provide break time and a place for most hourly wage-earning and some salaried employee to pump at work. The Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act would extend those supports to the 9 million employees that were excluded from the ACA's protections and provide for enforcement of this benefit. These nurses, teachers, retail workers, and managers across a number of industries deserve the

same protections as other working mothers. March of Dimes proudly endorses the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act (S.1658/H.R. 3110).

Thank you again for the opportunity to express March of Dimes' strong support for this bipartisan legislation under consideration, the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act (S.1658/H.R. 3110). We urge the swift advancement of this important bill and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Y. Brayboy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'Y'.

Stacey Brayboy
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Government Affairs

CC:
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
The Honorable Jeff Merkley