



## The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 3029)

The *PREEMIE Reauthorization Act* represents the federal government's commitment to preventing premature birth and its consequences, the leading cause of death among newborns.

### Background

In 2006, Congress passed the original PREEMIE Act (P.L. 109-450), which expanded research and developed a public-private agenda aimed at reducing preterm birth and its consequences. The legislation was renewed in 2013 (P.L. 113-55).

From 2006 until 2014, the nation's preterm birth rate dropped each year, falling to an historic low in 2014. Unfortunately, the rate has begun to increase steadily over the past three years.

S. 3029, the *PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018*, will renew our nation's commitment to address preterm birth by supporting federal research and promoting known interventions and community initiatives.

### Key Bill Provisions

The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 is sponsored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ). Key provisions of the bill include:

- Renewal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's research and programs on preterm birth, including improved tracking of national data.
- Reauthorization of the Health Resources and Services Administration's activities aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.
- Extension of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality and updates to the Committee's charge to examine severe maternal morbidity.
- Establishment of an entity in the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate all federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality and other adverse birth outcomes.

### Preterm Birth Facts

- Every year, more than 380,000 infants are born preterm in the United States, or 1 in 10 births.
- Preterm delivery can happen to any pregnant woman, and in more than half of cases the underlying causes are unknown.
- Premature birth and its complications are the leading cause of infant death in the United States.
- Premature infants who survive are more likely to suffer from intellectual and physical disabilities than infants born at full term.
- A 2006 report by the Institute of Medicine found that the economic burden associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26.2 billion annually, or \$51,600 per infant born preterm.

### Contact information:

Julie Hyams, 617-759-1628 or [Julie.hyams@dbi.com](mailto:Julie.hyams@dbi.com) or Elaine Vining, 202-230-5367 or [elaine.vining@dbi.com](mailto:elaine.vining@dbi.com)

***The March of Dimes urges all Members of Congress to cosponsor and vote for S. 3029, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018.***