Last reauthorized in 2018, and expiring in 2023, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act represents the federal government’s commitment to preventing premature birth and its consequences, the leading contributor to infant death.

Preterm birth, along with low birth weight babies, make up the second leading cause of infant deaths after birth defects.

The health consequences of preterm birth include developmental delays, chronic respiratory programs and vision and hearing impairment. Having a preterm baby impacts families emotionally and financially.

Preterm-related causes account for 35.8% of infant deaths in the U.S. and the annual societal economic cost (medical, education, and lost productivity) is an estimated $25.2B.

Rather than having one cause, preterm birth seems to be triggered by multiple, interacting biologic and environmental factors. We do know that a history of preterm birth, multiple gestations, and certain uterine and/or cervical problems are the strongest risk factors for preterm birth.

Key Elements of the PREEMIE Act

Specifically, the PREEMIE Act will:

- Renew the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s research and programs on preterm birth, including improved tracking of national data.

- Reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration’s activities aimed at promoting health pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.

- Extend the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality and updates to the Committee’s charge to examine severe maternal morbidity.

- Establish 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.
Facts on Premature Birth

**U.S. PRETERM BIRTH GRADE:** C-

**U.S. PRETERM BIRTH RATE:** 10.1%

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Preterm Births in the United States, 2019

[Map showing preterm birth rates by state]

Infant Deaths by Cause of Death in the United States, 2017 – 2019 Average

[Pie chart showing cause of death]

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Percentage of live births in 2017 – 2019 (average) born preterm

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