March of Dimes Advocacy Achievements

The March of Dimes Office of Government Affairs celebrated legislative victories improving maternal and infant health policy issues in Washington, D.C., and around the country.

Federal achievements

March of Dimes advanced maternal and infant health priorities at the federal level through legislative advocacy, coalition leadership, and education of policymakers.

Major legislative progress

- Secured enactment of the **PREEMIE Act Reauthorization** and the **Preventing Maternal Deaths Act** as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, supported by a March of Dimes–led coalition of more than 260 organizations.
- Achieved enactment of the **BABES Enhancement Act**, which requires improved protocols for the hygienic handling of breast milk, baby formula, and related equipment by TSA and screening personnel.

Advancing maternal and infant health legislation

- Supported the **NIH IMPROVE Act**, which continues funding the Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative.
- Supported the **SHINE for Autumn Act**, legislation aimed at reducing preventable stillbirth by improving stillbirth data collection and education.

Protecting critical maternal and infant health programs

March of Dimes advocacy helped prevent the elimination of and secure continued funding for essential maternal and infant health programs, including:

- Healthy Start
- Safe Motherhood Initiative
- National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)
- Section 317 Immunization Program
- Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant
- National Maternal Mental Health Hotline
- Newborn screening programs
- Safe Sleep Program
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program
- WIC and SNAP nutrition assistance programs

Expanding access to care

- Supported coalition efforts advancing the **Rural Health Transformation Program** and **Enhanced Advance Premium Tax Credits**, improving access to affordable health coverage for low-income families.

Building awareness with policymakers

- Supported congressional resolutions recognizing **Prematurity Awareness Month**.
- Hosted congressional briefings to educate lawmakers and staff on key maternal and infant health issues, including:
    - **Making the Grade on Maternal and Infant Health: 2025 Report Card**, featuring state and federal leaders addressing gaps in maternal care.
    - **CDC Safe Motherhood Initiative: Sustaining Congress' Commitment to Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes**, highlighting critical programs such as the Hear Her Campaign, Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs), Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs), and PRAMS.
    - **It Takes a Village** briefing held during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, focused on addressing disparities in maternal and infant health.

State achievements

March of Dimes continued to advance maternal and infant health policies nationwide through legislative advocacy, education, and partnerships with state leaders. State policy victories improved maternal mortality review processes, expanded access to birthing centers and lactation support services, strengthened protections for breastfeeding mothers, and advanced public health education on pregnancy warning signs.

National legislative outreach

- Promoted the 2025 March of Dimes Report Card to policymakers nationwide by:
    - Communicating with state legislators across all states and territories
    - Sharing the Report Card with **17,000 members of the National Conference of State Legislatures**
    - Engaging the **National Governors Association**, including distribution to gubernatorial offices and presentations on maternal health policy recommendations.

Legislative wins

- Advanced March of Dimes policy priorities on 123 state bills addressing preterm birth prevention, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and access to care, contributing to the passage or defeat of more than 65 bills in 2025.

Key policy advancements included:

- **Maternal health access:** Funding for maternal mobile health programs in **South Carolina** and **Virginia**.
- **Maternal mental health:** New advisory committee addressing maternal mental health in rural communities in **Arizona**, and expanded behavioral health coverage in **Louisiana**.
- **Workforce development:** Midwifery workforce initiatives in **California** and a public awareness campaign on the benefits of doula and midwifery services in **New Jersey**.
- **Newborn health:** Modernization of newborn screening programs in **Arizona** and establishment of a milk bank in **Puerto Rico**.
- **Coverage and care access:** Expansion of postpartum coverage to one year in **Puerto Rico** and expanded eligibility for remote patient monitoring in **Louisiana**.
- **Diabetes and maternal health:** Access to continuous glucose monitoring for gestational diabetes management in **Alabama** and **Georgia**.
- **Hospital and care infrastructure:** Creation of standby perinatal services at rural hospitals in **California**.
- **Historic legislative progress:** Passage of the **Virginia Momnibus**, a comprehensive package of **11 maternal health bills** addressing issues, including doulas, newborn screening, midwifery, and postpartum depression.

Grassroots achievements

March of Dimes continued to build a powerful national advocacy network mobilizing families, clinicians, and supporters to advance policies that improve the health of moms and babies.

- Implemented **March for Change** on Capitol Hill and in **14 states**, resulting in more than **500 advocates meeting directly with legislators**.
- Hosted the **6th Annual Cindy Pellegrini Advocacy Day**, where March of Dimes advocates and clinicians from Nemours Children's Health and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago met with approximately **65 congressional offices**.
- Expanded the **March of Dimes Advocacy Network by approximately 1,500 advocates nationwide**.
- Advocates generated **more than 8,000 actions**, including letters and messages to state and federal legislators supporting maternal and infant health policies.