



December 6, 2021

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Warren and Chairwoman Maloney:

On behalf of the March of Dimes, we proudly endorse the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 2021.

March of Dimes was founded 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, and substance abuse, through research, education, programs and advocacy.

Our 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. Although preterm birth rates declined slightly in 2020, the U.S. remains 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 know the pandemic has only worsened this crisis. We also know substance use disorders, and overdoses, skyrocketed during the pandemic. According to the recent data from the CDC, over 100,000 people died from overdoses from the spring of 2020 through the following spring of 2021.¹ This represents an increase of nearly 30 percent from the previous year. Many of these victims were mothers.

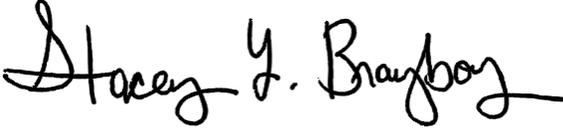
Substance use by expecting moms can have an adverse effect on the baby and can lead to a condition known as neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), which usually results in babies having withdrawal symptoms from drugs (including prescribed opioids) after birth. In addition, substance use during pregnancy, even if it's a prescription, can lead to miscarriages, preterm births, and birth defects.

That is why March of Dimes proudly supports your legislation, as it would provide critical investments to the most affected families and communities, as well as increase access to life-saving surveillance, training, treatment and recovery programs, and overdose reversal drugs. It would also incentivize states to use Medicaid funding to cover the costs of treatment, and create a new grant program to support at-risk parents struggling with addiction to maintain or find employment while they are in treatment and recovery.

March of Dimes appreciates the opportunity to work with you on advancing this legislation. If we can provide further information or otherwise be of assistance, please direct any follow-up questions to Jay Nichols, Deputy Director, Federal Affairs (jnichols@marchofdimes.org, 703.650.5627).

As always, thank you for your leadership on behalf of moms and babies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Y. Brayboy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Y. Brayboy
Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
The Honorable David Trone

ⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm