



February 9, 2018

SUPPORT HB 4133

Dear Chairman Greenlick and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Joanne Rogovoy and I'm the Director of Maternal and Child Health for the March of Dimes—Oregon. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, preterm birth and infant mortality. I am here today in support of HB 4133, which establishes the "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee" to conduct ongoing comprehensive, multi-disciplinary reviews of pregnancy-related deaths, and incidents of severe maternal morbidity in Oregon.

Review of every maternal death by a qualified committee is critical to understanding the factors that led to the maternal mortality or severe maternal morbidity, with the intent of using this information to prevent another occurrence. Importantly, this committee will help to shine a light on health equity and the social determinants of health that play a role in maternal outcomes.

HB 4133 will:

- Establish a multi-disciplinary committee including physicians specializing in maternal-fetal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and family practice, a certified nurse midwife, direct entry midwife, nurse specializing in labor and delivery, traditional health workers, individuals that represent communities of color, public health experts and others
- Tasks the committee with studying incidents of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and trying to determine what factors played a part in the outcome
- Asks the committee to examine the role of social determinates of health in maternal health and outcomes including factors like race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, housing, access to care, and others
- Seeks for the committee to make recommendations in policy and budgeting that can reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity

It is important that we not overlook why the establishment of this committee is necessary. A 2015 study in the Lancet determined that the US has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world. Our country averages 26.4 maternal fatalities for every 100,000 live births. That is almost three times as many as the next closest country, which averages 9.2. Especially troubling is that the US is the only developed country examined in which the rate of maternal mortality has risen between 2000 and 2015.

Oregon's rate of maternal mortality is 13.2 per 100,000 births. This bill and the committee that it will create is a crucial part of ensuring that all women in Oregon have healthy pregnancies.

The March of Dimes urges the committee to please vote in favor of HB 4133 and we would like to extend our appreciation to Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer for her leadership on this important bill.

I would also like to note that the March of Dimes is a founding member of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative, which is a group of health care leaders who come together to advocate for improved perinatal health outcomes through collaboration and adoption of evidence-based practices throughout the state. They are very much in favor of HB 4133.

