

U.S. Congress: PREEMIE needs your help!

<http://actioncenter.marchofdimes.org/app/onestep-write-a-letter?4&engagementId=482873>

Congress is about to consider renewing the only federal law dedicated to preventing and treating preterm birth, and we need your help to encourage every Representative to support it.

The statistics are staggering:

- One in 10 babies in the US is born preterm.
- Babies born to women of color are more likely to be born too soon.
- Preterm birth and its complications are the leading causes of infant death in the US and globally.
- Preterm birth rates have edged up for the past 3 consecutive years.

It doesn't have to be this way, and you can help ensure more babies are born healthy! Tell your Representative to support the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018, a bill that will maintain and enhance federal programs focused on identifying the causes of preterm birth and how to prevent it. **ACT NOW** and enter your zip code below to tell your elected officials how important this legislation is to you, and to all babies and families!



PREEMIE ACT 2018



<https://www.marchofdimes.org/advocacy/preemie-act-2018.ASPX>✉

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/H.R. 6085, 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.

The March of Dimes urges all Members of Congress to cosponsor and vote for S. 3029/H.R. 6085, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018.

[Download S.3029/H.R. 6085, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 fact sheet here.](#)

Latest Activities

- PREEMIE Act Group Sign on Letters - [Senate](#), [House](#), July 3, 2018