

AMCHP 2018 Annual Conference Capitol Hill Day Talking Points

- Introduce yourself and briefly explain your role with the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs or how you relate to the Title V program (e.g. Title V Director) and/or your professional/family affiliation (e.g., health professional, business owner, parent or grandparent, etc.)

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO LOBBY:

Support Funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program:

- Today I am / we are asking you to help improve the health of women, infants, and children by **supporting** \$650 million in funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant in Fiscal Year 2019.
- The MCH Block Grant ensures the health of our nation's mothers and children. In Fiscal Year 2016 alone, the MCH Block Grant supported maternal and child health programs that served over 54 million individuals.
- Title V supports states and communities in addressing the most pressing needs of women and children, including:
 - reducing infant mortality;
 - improving the health of pregnant women, infants, and children; and
 - developing family-centered, coordinated, community-based systems of care for children with special healthcare needs.
- We are grateful to Congress for providing a modest increase to the Block Grant in Fiscal Year 2017 and level funding in the Fiscal Year 2018 legislation passed by the appropriations committees. However, the current funding level is still \$90 million less than the program received in 2003. At the same time, Title V programs are being called upon to invest additional resources to address emerging issues like the Zika virus and the opioid epidemic.
- I urge you to prioritize funding for the MCH Block Grant so that we avoid child deaths from preventable conditions, so that mothers receive needed pre- and postnatal care, and so that systems and services for children with special health care needs are maintained.
- Previous funding reductions have impacted **(insert your state or program)**'s ability to serve the most vulnerable populations. **[Describe the impact.]**
- Although we've made progress on maternal and child health in recent years, we still have a ways to go. The United States has the fourth highest infant mortality rate in the industrialized world. We must sustain funding for the MCH Block Grant because it is the foundation for public health programs that are designed to improve the health and well-being of our most vulnerable populations.
- Included in your folder is a state-specific fact sheet that describes the impact of Title V funding in our state.
- We hope that your Senator/Representative includes our funding request on his/her appropriations request list and opposes any effort to cut funding for this vital investment. Can we count on his/her support?

Co-Sponsor Legislation to Establish and Expand Maternal Mortality Review Committees:

- We encourage your Senator/Representative to co-sponsor bipartisan legislation to establish and expand statewide maternal mortality review committees. There is a Dear Colleague letter included in your folder with further details about the bill. **[If they are already a co-sponsor, thank them for their support!]**
- **[If meeting with a Senate office]:** The Senate bill is S. 1112, the Maternal Health Accountability Act, led by Senators Heitkamp and Capito.

- **[If meeting with a House office]:** The House bill is H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, led by Rep. Herrera Beutler (pronounced BUT ler).
- Unlike in any other industrialized country, maternal deaths in the United States are on the rise. The U.S. is ranked 47th globally for its maternal mortality rate.
- This legislation would provide support to states to establish or enhance statewide Maternal Mortality Review Committees to examine pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths and identify ways to improve maternal care and maternal health outcomes.
- **[If they ask about cost]:** It would authorize \$7M for each of fiscal years 2018-2022 to provide grants to states to establish or expand the activities of statewide maternal mortality review committees.

IF YOU ARE CONDUCTING EDUCATIONAL VISITS ONLY (i.e., not lobbying):

About the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant:

- Today I/we would like to discuss the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. I/we cannot directly lobby, but I/we can provide information about what the MCH Block Grant does in our state.
- The MCH Block Grant ensures the health of our nation’s mothers and children. In Fiscal Year 2016 alone, the MCH Block Grant supported maternal and child health programs that served over 54 million individuals.
- Title V supports states and communities in addressing the most pressing needs of women and children, including:
 - reducing infant mortality;
 - improving the health of pregnant women, infants, and children; and
 - developing family-centered, coordinated, community-based systems of care for children with special healthcare needs.
- Although we’ve made progress in recent years, the United States now has the fourth highest infant mortality rate in the industrialized world. Previous funding reductions have impacted **(insert your state or program)’s** ability to serve the most vulnerable populations. **[Describe the impact.]**
- Included in your folder is a state-specific fact sheet that describes the impact of Title V funding in our state. Are there any questions that I can answer for you about the role of the Title V Block Grant?

About Maternal Mortality Review Committees:

- I/we would also like to discuss statewide maternal mortality review committees.
- Unlike in any other industrialized country, maternal deaths in the United States are on the rise. The U.S. is ranked 47th globally for its maternal mortality rate.
- Maternal Mortality Review Committees examine pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths and identify ways to improve maternal care and maternal health outcomes. This is the gold standard in maternal mortality surveillance.
- **[If you are aware, provide any specifics about Maternal Mortality Review Committees in your state]**

EVERYONE: Closing:

- Thank you for meeting with us/me today!
- If you have any specific questions, I’d be happy to ask AMCHP’s Policy Department staff to follow up with you. If you’d like to contact them directly, their contact information is at the bottom of the Title V fact sheet.