



AMCHP Counters U.S. Opposition to Breastfeeding Resolution

AMCHP led a coalition of 51 national organizations and academic centers in sending a [letter](#) today to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar expressing concern over reports that the United States delegation to the 2018 World Health Assembly sought to weaken a resolution designed to support breastfeeding. The letter affirms that the United States should be supporting globally the same public health practices that it promotes here in the United States. Specially, the letter highlights the commitment the United States has demonstrated to supporting breastfeeding and the significant resources the United States invests in programs to support this goal, including the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. While recognizing that not all women may desire or have the option to breastfeed, the letter asserts that respecting families' agency in deciding how they feed their children is not in conflict with addressing the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children.

Appropriations Committees Pass L-HHS Bills, Add Funding to Address Maternal Mortality

The House Appropriations Committee made [several amendments](#) to the underlying [bill text](#) and [report language](#) of its FY19 L-HHS bill before passing the bill out of committee on July 11. The amendments included increasing the Safe Motherhood/Infant Health funding line at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by \$6 million. This funding increase would be divided up as follows: \$2M to support state implementation of maternal mortality review committees; \$2M for a new Maternal Health Pilot Project focused on capturing real-time data on prenatal and newborn health; and \$2M for CDC activities to reduce preterm birth and improve prematurity outcomes. An updated version of AMCHP's summary of key MCH highlights from the House L-HHS bill is available [here](#).

The committee also approved several amendments regarding the care of children separated from their parents at the border under the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy and efforts to reunite them with their families, though it is important to keep in mind that this bill is unlikely to become law in time to truly impact the situation. An amendment to add funding for gun violence prevention research failed on a party-line vote.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its [FY19 L-HHS bill](#) on June 28. The Senate bill proposes a \$26 million increase for the Title V MCH Block Grant directed to the Special Projects

of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) portion of the block grant for two initiatives to address maternal mortality. It also includes a \$12 million increase for the Safe Motherhood funding line at CDC for technical assistance to state maternal mortality review committees. For more information on these initiatives and other MCH highlights from the Senate L-HHS bill, see AMCHP's overview of the [Senate bill](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amy Haddad, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, at ahaddad@amchp.org.