

December 5, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of [Ob Hospitalist Group](#) (OBHG), which leads the nation in developing and managing customized OB/GYN hospitalist programs that improve health outcomes for mothers and babies, and our 700 obstetricians (OBs) and midwives who provide that care, I am writing to inform you of our support for **H.R. 1318/S. 1112**. We respectfully ask that you bring this important bipartisan legislation to a vote before Congress adjourns for the year.

The tragedy of the U.S. maternal mortality rate is unacceptable, and it is equally unacceptable that there are significant disparities in outcomes based on factors such as race, ethnicity, geographic region, payer status, and even care models at facilities providing care. We commend your leadership and dedication to exploring causes and making changes to impact the mortality rate.

Based on our own experience with our hospital partners in 32 states, we know collecting accurate data on maternal/fetal care is a critical first step. At OBHG, we have an unparalleled dataset of encounters and outcomes, based on our large national footprint, that we leverage to implement improvements in maternal care delivery. Between September 2017 and August 2018, our clinicians had almost 400,000 patient encounters, almost 137,000 of which were high-risk encounters. They managed 42,878 emergent interventions and delivered more than 32,000 babies. The insights gleaned from this data help us to elevate quality of care with our partner hospitals through identification of areas of potential risk mitigation and opportunities for quality improvement and a commitment to transparent and engaged interactions with provider teams and hospital partners. It is our sincere hope that MMRCs will yield an actionable dataset and important key learnings that change the trajectory of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Your actions and those of your colleagues is an important first step in improving outcomes and health of women and babies. **Please move H.R. 1318/S. 1112 to a vote before adjournment.**

Sincerely,

Mark N. Simon, MD  
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Greenville, SC 29607

Cc:

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler

The Honorable Diana DeGette

The Honorable Ryan Costello

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito