

September 26, 2018

The Honorable Michael Burgess
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess,

As a board member of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), I write in strong support of H.R. 1318, the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017*. NFP is an evidence-based community health program with a core mission of improving the lives of at-risk moms and their children, and we thank you for your attention and steadfast commitment to improving maternal health outcomes.

Each day, NFP nurses work in their local communities to transform the lives of at-risk, first-time mothers. The program partners mothers with a registered nurse at a pivotal moment — beginning early in pregnancy with a first child — and provides ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Their relationship begins with a focus on the mother — their personal goals as well as their overall health -- which leads to healthier outcomes in both the mother and child after birth. Specifically, a 20-year follow-up study of an NFP randomized controlled trial in Memphis, TN found that NFP is effective at reducing all-cause mortality among mothers and preventable-cause mortality in their first-born children living in highly disadvantaged settings. This study showed that mothers who did not receive nurse home-visits were nearly 3 times more likely to die from all causes of death than nurse-visited moms.

We believe that H.R. 1318 stands to greatly improve how we address maternal mortality in this country, by providing needed federal support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs). These committees bring together stakeholders to focus on locally-relevant, preventative solutions that work and investing in those that are effective, like NFP.

We are so grateful for your continued leadership on this critical issue. Please let us know if we can be a resource to you as you work to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,



Fred Cerise
CEO, Parkland Health & Hospital System

