



June 24, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee United States Senate

The Honorable Bernie Sanders Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee United States Senate

RE: Support for the Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders,

We write in strong support of <u>S.1834</u>, the *Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act*—a vital legislative step toward affirming the dignity and value of every mother and child in America.

As leaders of First Rights Global and Democrats for Life of America, we are united in the belief that public policy must reflect the inherent worth of every human life. This includes ensuring that women are equipped with the resources, care, and support they need to flourish in motherhood. Our organizations stand together in promoting maternal health equity, family well-being, and a culture that supports life.

The Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act addresses out of control birth-related costs and critical gaps in perinatal and postnatal care by preventing health insurance cost-sharing requirements for comprehensive prenatal, childbirth, neonatal, perinatal, and postpartum health care and screenings. It also includes miscarriage care, care for any conditions that were caused or exacerbated by pregnancy, and mental health services for all legal and birth parents.

These provisions are a necessary step toward empowering women to build their families, particularly among underserved populations.

As we highlighted in our white paper <u>Make Birth Free</u>, bold federal action is needed to remove the economic barriers that compel or constrain a woman's choice during pregnancy. In a nation where the average cost of childbirth is nearly \$20,000 and far too many women report financial insecurity as a reason for forgoing prenatal care or considering abortion, this bill represents meaningful progress toward a more just and life-affirming healthcare system.

We urge you and your colleagues to schedule a hearing on the cost of childbirth in America, and to support and pass the *Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act*. This bill represents an integral part of a national commitment to building a society where motherhood is honored, supported, and never punished with poverty or neglect. We believe that we can transcend partisanship in defense of human dignity and ensure that every woman who wants to carry her child into the world is able to do so with safety, dignity, and joy.

With hope and determination,

Catherine Glenn Foster

President & CEO, First Rights Global

Kristen Day

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Executive Director, Democrats for Life of America