

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
U.S. House of Representatives
515 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Herrera Beutler
U.S. House of Representatives
1107 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Krishnamoorthi and Herrera Beutler:

On behalf of the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA) and our 52,000 members, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 5761, the Ending Maternal Mortality Act and to applaud your leadership on this important issue.

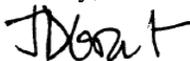
H.R. 5761 recognizes the importance of decreasing America's maternal mortality rate as a method of increasing the overall health and well-being in our nation. Specifically, your bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to design and implement an aggressive National Strategy to Combat Maternal Mortality, with the goal of cutting the rate of preventable maternal deaths by half in the next decade. This renewed commitment to maternal health is important because roughly 60% of today's maternal deaths are considered preventable. We are confident that the research and public education encouraged in this bill will have a significant impact on maternal mortality. The bill would also encourage a variety of necessary data collection measures to enhance the understanding of the causes and warning signs of maternal mortality.

For physician anesthesiologists, our longstanding commitment and success in improving patient safety is well-known and documented. Members of our medical specialty have dedicated their careers to understanding how and why bad outcomes occur, and we continue to work tirelessly to prevent adverse events. Your legislation is consistent with our commitment to improving patient care.

ASA believes H.R. 5761 is a necessary first step in developing a national strategy to fight maternal mortality and that, if enacted, it can positively impact the experiences of mothers across the nation.

ASA appreciates the opportunity to express support for this important bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Manuel Bonilla, M.S., ASA's Chief Advocacy and Practice Officer (m.bonilla@asahq.org) or by telephone at (202) 289-2222 if we can be of further assistance. Thank you again for your leadership on this critical issue facing our country.

Sincerely,



James D. Grant, M.D., M.B.A., FASA
President
American Society of Anesthesiologists