



For Immediate Release: October 8, 2015

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Pediatricians Applaud House Introduction of the Reach Every Mother and Child Act
Bill aims to accelerate reduction of preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths worldwide

Washington, DC – The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports the *Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015*, which coordinates a U.S. government strategy to accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths worldwide, helping the United States achieve its commitment to end these preventable deaths by 2035. The legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday, and a companion bill (S. 1911) was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Chris Coons (D-Del.) in late July.

“The AAP’s mission to advance the health needs of children knows no borders, and neither does our advocacy,” said AAP President Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP. “Pediatricians are undertaking efforts with partners in the U.S. government and across the globe to emphasize the importance of strong programs and policies that ensure every child has the opportunity to survive and thrive.”

Representatives Dave Reichert (R-Wash.), Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Michael McCaul (R-Texas) introduced the legislation. Last night, Rep. McCollum announced the introduction of the *Reach Act* at a congressional reception hosted by the Academy, “What It Takes to Save a Life.” During the reception, convened by Rep. McCollum with her Congressional Global Health Caucus co-chair Rep. Reichert and sponsored by PATH, the U.S. Agency for International Development shared its Acting on the Call 2015 Progress Report, an evidence-based blueprint for ending preventable child and maternal deaths worldwide that receives legislative support through the *Reach Act*.

Pediatricians from across the country will converge upon Capitol Hill this morning, sharing the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in ending preventable maternal and child deaths with their federal legislators.

“While we have made strides in reducing global child mortality, we still have much work to do to make sure every child will live past their fifth birthday and look forward to a healthy life,” said Dr. Hassink. “The Academy thanks Reps. Reichert, McCollum, Lee and McCaul, and Sens. Collins and Coons for their work to reduce child mortality by introducing the *Reach Act*, and looks forward to working with both chambers to advance this critical legislation.”

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 64,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.