

The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act

Advocacy Take-Action Guidelines

The Issue

When the PREEMIE Act was first passed in 2006, it was a defining moment for the crisis of prematurity in the United States. The original PREEMIE Act ran out in 2011, and a bill to reauthorize the PREEMIE Act is now in Congress (S 1440/HR 2749). Bill sponsors are Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ). The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act represents a renewed commitment to our nation's efforts to reduce premature birth, which is the leading cause of infant mortality. If enacted, the bill will:

- Authorizes biomedical, clinical and transdisciplinary research related to preterm birth at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Reauthorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) research and programs on preterm birth to improve and track national data and develop methods to better understand and prevent late preterm births.
- Authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to award telemedicine grants and demonstration projects aimed at improving treatment of pregnant women and outcomes for babies born prematurely.
- Establishes the National Science-Based Provider and Consumer Education Campaign to promote healthy pregnancies and prevent preterm birth.
- Authorizes the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding reducing infant mortality, preterm birth and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants.

The Opportunity

Advocate for legislation. NANN has signed on to a letter of support for the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, but it is more important for elected officials to hear from their own constituents. The March of Dimes makes it very easy to voice your support for the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act. At their [Advocacy Center](#) they provide a portal for sending a quick message to your Senators and Representative in Congress asking them to cosponsor and support this legislation. All you have to do is enter your zip code. If your US Senator is on the [Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions \(HELP\) Committee](#), you can make a significant impact by sending an email and expressing your support for the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act.