



2023 Advocacy Accomplishments

State Government Affairs

State Government Affairs celebrated 74 legislative victories in support or opposition of maternal-child health issues. These efforts include the following 2023 successes on key organizational strategies:

- Expanding **Medicaid coverage** in North Carolina, *addressing the needs of an estimated 600,000 North Carolinians.*
- Extending **Postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months** in Missouri, Mississippi, and Texas. *Currently, 43 states and DC have extended this coverage.*
- Improving **doula access** in Arizona, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Tennessee. *Louisiana law supports private insurance doula coverage.*
- Addressing **paid leave** systems in Georgia (sick leave), Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.
- Funding **maternal mortality review** in Alabama, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.
- Funding for **fetal mortality review** program implementation in Alabama.
- Providing **pregnant and parenting accommodations** in California.
- Supporting **home visitation** in Arizona, Georgia, and Tennessee.
- Improving maternity care desert access through a **rural residency program and remote maternal health services** in Georgia.
- Enhancing **midwifery reimbursement** rates in Louisiana.
- Defending effective **childhood vaccinations** in Louisiana and Massachusetts.
- Addressing **maternal mental health** in New Jersey and Puerto Rico.
- Modernizing **newborn screening** in Texas.

Other State Government Affairs successes

- Implemented March for Change in 14 states with 310 advocates meeting with state legislators. States hosting events included *Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.*
- Hosted **Celebrating Moms: A Healthy Baby Begins with You** webinar with Jennifer Siebel Newsom, California's First Partner; Tonya Lewis Lee, March of Dimes National Board of Trustee Member; Dr. Diana E. Ramos, California's 2nd Surgeon General; and Stacey Y. Brayboy, March of Dimes Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs.
- In honor of March of Dimes' 85th anniversary, issued a Proclamation Challenge with nearly 30 states, territories, and local governments issuing letters, proclamations, and commendations to honor the work of the organization. Twenty-eight governments acknowledged this significant milestone including *Alaska, American Samoa, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Allegheny County PA, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.*
- Fostered stronger relationships with National Governors Association and National Association of State Legislatures.
- Held meeting with Tammy Murphy, First Spouse of New Jersey, and Dr. Elizabeth Cherot, March of Dimes President and CEO.

Federal Affairs

- Hosted three widely-attended briefings on:
 - Vaccination access for all communities sponsored by Reps. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) and Kim Schrier (D-WA).
 - The 2023 Maternity Care Deserts Report with the Congressional Black Maternal Health Caucus Briefing.
 - The maternity care deserts report with the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Hosted the *March for Change Summit* in Washington, DC, holding 70 meetings, with members of Congress from 21 states. Nationally, advocates supported their efforts by sending nearly 2,000 letters to Congress.
- Congressional testimony by March of Dimes' Chief Medical and Health Officer in the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee in support of the advancement of the PREEMIE Act and Preventing Maternal Deaths Act.
- Advocated for legislation such as:
 - **The PREEMIE Act** which unanimously passed the House and passed Senate Committee. This legislation is supported by a March of Dimes led coalition of 124 organizations.
 - **The Preventing Maternal Deaths Act** which passed House and Senate Committees with near unanimous support.
 - **The Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act** that passed unanimously in the Senate.
 - **FY 2023 funding to provide strong, sustained support** for maternal and infant health, research, and surveillance programs through the CDC, NIH, and HRSA.
 - House bipartisan congressional resolution recognizing November as **Prematurity Awareness Month** on its 20th anniversary.
 - **The National Defense Authorization Act provision** to count military service toward the one-year tenure requirement for federal employees to qualify for paid parental leave and unpaid FMLA leave.
- Worked with coalition partners to ensure that moms and babies are protected from the negative impacts of the Medicaid unwinding through fighting to ease barriers to re-enrollment.
- Participated in more than a dozen coalition advocacy days, including the annual March of Dimes hosted Cindy Pellegrini Maternal and Infant Health Advocacy Day, and partnered on advocacy days focused on WIC, stillbirth, medical research, and funding in support of maternal and infant health programs.

Grassroots Advocacy

- March of Dimes continues to grow advocacy across the country, expanding the number of advocates by 5% in 2023.

