

November 21, 2024

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Nemours Children's Health, thank you for your partnership and commitment to child health during the 118th Congress.

As we come to the end of the current Congress, we write to share our year-end priorities on several bipartisan policies that would advance the health and well-being of our nation's children. We would appreciate your consideration in supporting the inclusion of the following policies in any must-pass legislative vehicles before the end of the year.

### **Pass the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act**

We appreciate Congress' efforts to advance the bipartisan *Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act* ([S. 2372/H.R. 4758](#)). This House-passed bill would reduce barriers that children with complex medical conditions covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program must navigate to receive timely access to high-quality care from providers located outside of their home state. As a multi-state pediatric health system, we treat patients from multiple states who seek specialized care for such conditions. This legislation would create a singular, voluntary, federal pathway to expeditiously enroll a limited subset of providers caring for children with medical complexity. We urge Congress to include the *Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act* in any year-end legislative package to ensure children with medical complexity can receive timely access to the care they need.

### **Advance Key Maternal Health Priorities**

Nemours strongly supports efforts to advance policies to improve high-quality, holistic maternal and infant health care. We believe the following three bipartisan bills would make a meaningful difference in preventing prematurity and maternal mortality and improving maternal mental health:

- The House-passed *PREEMIE Reauthorization Act* ([S. 1573/H.R. 3226](#)) would reauthorize federal funding for programs, research and education to prevent preterm births, reduce infant mortality, and improve pregnancy outcomes.
- The House-passed *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act* ([S. 2415/H.R. 3838](#)) would expand and strengthen federal support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees to improve maternal health, address disparities in outcomes and find solutions to enhance maternal health care quality.
- The *Maintaining our Obligation to Moms (MOMs) Who Serve Act* ([S.3641/H.R.7087](#)) (included in the House version of the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act) would establish a pilot program at military treatment facilities to prevent maternal mental health conditions among

pregnant and postpartum uniformed service members and beneficiaries.

We urge Congress to include these bills in any must-pass legislative vehicle before the end of the year to make continued strides toward improving maternal and infant health.

**Extend the Medicare Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver & Extend Eligibility to IPPS-exempt Hospitals**

Nemours strongly supports proposals to extend the Medicare Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver before it is set to expire at the end of 2024. This waiver has allowed certain Medicare-certified hospitals to treat patients with inpatient-level care at home. Additionally, we urge your inclusion of language to allow Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)-exempt children's and cancer hospitals to participate in the Medicare Acute Hospital Care at Home program. These institutions and the populations they serve have been left out of the current program, and a legislative fix is needed to ensure that these patient populations can reap the benefits of hospital at home programs.

**Extend Expiring Telehealth Flexibilities**

Nemours strongly supports proposals to extend temporary Medicare and commercial market telehealth flexibilities that are set to expire at the end of 2024. These flexibilities have made a meaningful difference in expanding access to care for patients across the country. Nemours has leveraged telehealth across our specialties, including mental and behavioral health, which has increased access and reduced delayed care for the patients we serve. As Congress continues to consider a pathway to permanently expand telehealth access, we support proposals to extend current flexibilities to ensure stability for telehealth policy and uninterrupted care for millions of patients before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration of these important policies to ensure that Congress prioritizes children's health in any year-end legislative vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniella Gratale".

Daniella Gratale  
Associate Vice President, Federal Affairs  
Nemours Children's Health