

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 436

Supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity Awareness Month.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of Prematurity  
Awareness Month.

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications of preterm birth are now the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 children die each year due to complications of preterm birth;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem that exacts a toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas many complications of preterm birth may have lifelong consequences for the health, growth, and development of infants;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide can be prevented through proven cost-ef-

fective strategies to promote full-term births and improve the care of preterm infants;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to high-quality pre-pregnancy care, prenatal care, childbirth services, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas the preterm birth rate in the United States has worsened for four consecutive years, rising from 9.63 percent in 2015 to 10.02 percent in 2018;

Whereas there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates among many communities in the United States;

Whereas there are disparities in preterm birth rates globally, with lower-income families at the highest risk of having a child preterm;

Whereas many preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs focused on reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, closely spaced pregnancies, and early elective deliveries; and

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, November is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the recognition of Prematurity  
3       Awareness Month;

4               (2) honors individuals working domestically and  
5       internationally to reduce preterm births; and

- 1           (3) supports efforts at home and abroad to—
- 2                 (A) reduce the impact of preterm births by
- 3           improving maternal health during and after
- 4           pregnancy;
- 5                 (B) advance the care and treatment of in-
- 6           fants born preterm; and
- 7                 (C) promote evidence-based strategies to—
- 8                 (i) prevent preterm birth and promote
- 9                 full-term births; and
- 10                (ii) improve outcomes for infants born
- 11           preterm.

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