

Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (ACIM)

5600 Fishers Lane

Room 18N84

Rockville, Maryland 20857

<https://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committees/Infant-Mortality/index.html>

July 27, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

World Patient Safety Day is September 17, 2021 with the theme “Safe maternal and newborn care.” The World Health Organization (WHO) is asking all global partners to “Act now for safe and respectful childbirth.” As acting chair of the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (ACIM), which provides recommendations to you regarding the needs of mothers and infants, and with unanimous support of the Committee, I ask that HHS step forward to highlight and support the important message behind World Patient Safety Day. (<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/09/17/default-calendar/world-patient-safety-day-2021>)

Every day approximately 810 women suffer preventable deaths due to conditions associated with pregnancy and childbirth. In addition, around 6,700 newborns die every day, amounting to 47% of all deaths under age five. WHO is leading this global partnership with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, the International Pediatric Association, and the International Confederation of Midwives. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has accepted a leadership role for the United States and has already engaged the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward P. Ehlinger, M.D., M.S.P.H.
Acting Chair, ACIM