

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you consider the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations, thank you for your past support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential Services Grant Program and the State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women. We are writing to request robust funding for the PPW Residential and State Pilot Programs for Pregnant and Postpartum Women. The *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R.1968; P.L.119-4)*, signed into law by President Trump on March 15, provides level funding for SAMHSA/CSAT's PPW programs at \$38.9 million.

Perinatal substance use continues to be a significant public health concern. Women are at the highest risk for developing substance use disorder (SUD) during their reproductive years.¹ Exposure to opioids, stimulants, tobacco, alcohol, and other illicit drugs during pregnancy may result in the development of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and multiple other adverse health outcomes for the mother and infant.¹ According to the latest Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) data, roughly 6 newborns are diagnosed with NAS for every 1,000 newborn hospital stays in the U.S.² Further, the number of mothers with opioid-related diagnoses at delivery increased by 131% from 2010-2017.³ Care for newborns with NAS can also be costly on an already strained healthcare system. For example, in 2022, the average cost of a hospital stay for a newborn with NAS in the U.S. was \$10,900 – over 7 times greater than the cost for other newborn hospital stays (\$1,500).⁴ The length of stay for infants born with NAS also had a median of 10 days, compared to a median of 2 days for babies born without NAS.⁴

The PPW Residential Services Grant Program is designed to expand the availability of comprehensive, residential substance use disorder treatment, prevention, and recovery services using a family-centered approach. The grants awarded through this program ensure that pregnant and postpartum women receive treatment in an inpatient setting while residing alongside their child. In data describing outcomes from FY 2023, the residential treatment

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK542330/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/opioid-use-during-pregnancy/about/index.html>

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2774834>

⁴ <https://datatools.ahrq.gov/hcup-fast-stats/?tab=special-emphasis&dash=83>

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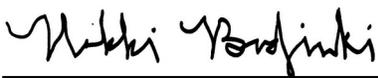
program served 1,396 clients.⁵ In addition, the percentage of clients who reported that they did not use alcohol or any illicit drugs within the past 30 days increased by 114.7 percent between intake to 6-month follow-up.⁵ Program participants also reported that their housing stability increased 15.7 percent.⁵

The State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women helps fill treatment gaps by providing services to pregnant and postpartum women using a family-centered approach in non-residential treatment settings, such as outpatient programs. In FY 2023, the program served 897 clients.⁵ Between in-take and 6-month follow-up, the percentage of clients who reported that they did no use alcohol or illegal drugs in the past 30-days increased by 50.3 percent.⁵ Clients also reported that their housing stability increased by approximately 7 percent.⁵

As the nation contends with stubbornly high levels of overdose, robust investments in the Pregnant and Postpartum Women's Residential Services Grant Program and the State Pilot Program are critical. As a result, we urge you to provide robust funding for SAMHSA's Pregnant and Postpartum Women's Residential Services Grant Program and the State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women. These investments will keep families together, save lives, save money, and promote recovery.

Thank you for your time and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/samhsa-fy-2025-cj.pdf>

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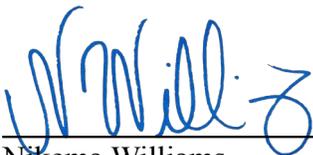
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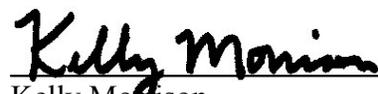
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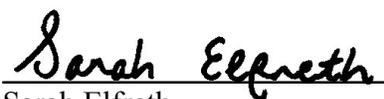
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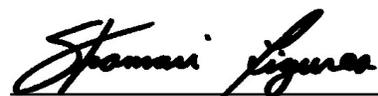
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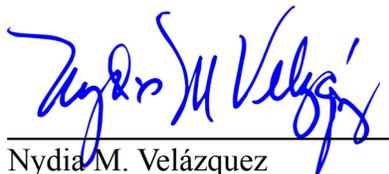
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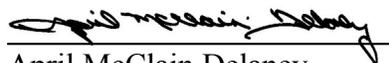
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