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## Background

- The United States has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world.
- Annually, more than 50,000 women experience life-threatening complications due to labor and delivery.
- In 2020, nearly 900 women died due to pregnancy-related causes, a record high.
- In 2021, the preterm birth rate was 10.5%, a 15-year high.

## Bill summary

Originally enacted into law in 2018, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2023 would strengthen and expand federal support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs):

- MMRC's are tasked with identifying maternal deaths, analyzing factors that contributed to those deaths, and translating the lessons into policy changes.
- MMRCs are staffed by representatives in public health, obstetrics and gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, nursing, midwifery, forensic pathology, mental and behavioral health, patient advocacy groups, and community-based organizations.
- CDC currently supports MMRCs in 39 states and one territory under the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) Program.
- ERASE MM supports agencies and organizations that coordinate and manage MMRCs to identify, review, and characterize pregnancy-related deaths, as well as identify prevention opportunities.
- Passage of this legislation would help provide ongoing support and expansion of MMRCs and better protect women throughout their pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, and assist in narrowing racial disparities in outcomes.