Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Susan Monarez
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Acting Director Monarez,

We are reaching out to inquire about the current status of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). As a vital initiative jointly operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and several state, territorial, and local health departments, PRAMS plays a crucial role in collecting data to improve maternal and infant health outcomes, representing over 80 percent of all U.S. live births.[1] This information is of increasing importance as the U.S. is experiencing a maternal health crisis: it has one of the highest maternal mortality rates among high-income nations, increasing rates of complications from pregnancy or childbirth, and persistent disparities in such outcomes.[2]

PRAMS, which was developed in 1987, was designed to identify groups of women and infants at high risk for health problems, to monitor changes in health status, and to measure progress towards goals in improving the health of mothers and infants. Over the last 38 years, the program has collected essential data on maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy through a site-specific and population-based surveillance system. Additionally, a new phase of the PRAMS questionnaire was launched in 2023 with questions that are critical for informing program and policy to improve maternal health. The program helps monitor maternal and child health trends, allowing state, territorial, or local public health officials to implement focused interventions. Maternal care providers rely on the data collected by PRAMS, the sole source of this type of information, to enhance prenatal and postnatal care. PRAMS allows comparisons among participating sites because the same data collection methods are used in all sites. Further, PRAMS promotes interagency collaboration by providing unique data and is used to measure progress towards goals in improving the health of mothers and infants.[3]

We are deeply concerned about recent reports stating that PRAMS has stopped its operations.[4] With this in mind, we ask that you answer the following questions:

1. Why is PRAMS, this critical maternal and infant health data program, no longer collecting and reporting data? When did the program stop collecting and reporting data?
2. Is there a timeline when PRAMS will be operational again? If so, when?

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[1] https://www.cdc.gov/prams/about/index.html

[2] https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2024/jun/insights-us-maternal-mortality-crisis-international-comparison

[3] Budget Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2025 | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

[4] https://www.statnews.com/2025/03/03/cdc-pauses-prams-database-which-tracks-racial-disparities-maternal-health/

3. Will PRAMS return to full operability? If yes, on what date is PRAMS expected to return to full operations?
4. Was there any communication to states and institutions prior to PRAMS shutting down? If so, what was communicated and when?
5. Is there a plan in place to collect PRAMS data so there is not a significant gap in maternal and infant health data collection?
6. If PRAMS will be operational again, where there any changes made? If so, what were they?
7. Have any CDC personnel working on PRAMS been laid off?

PRAMS plays a crucial role in reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Preserving this program will strengthen public health efforts, reduce inequities in care, and ultimately save lives. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator
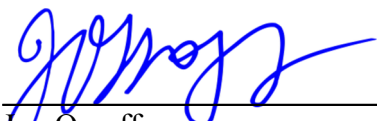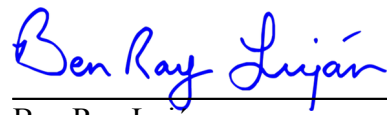
Elizabeth Warren
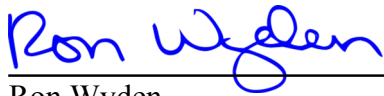United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator
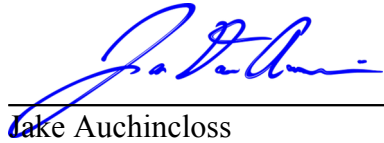
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
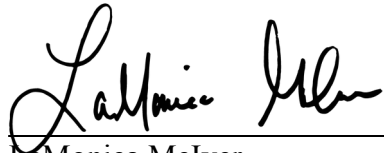United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
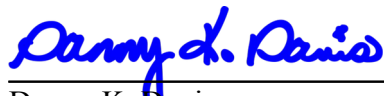
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Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
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LaMonica McIver
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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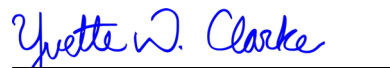
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Terri A. Sewell
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Gwen S. Moore
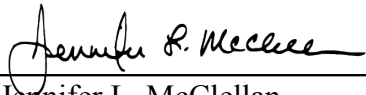Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

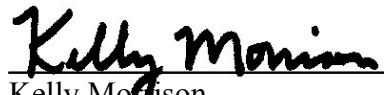Jennifer L. McClellan
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Delia C. Ramirez
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Donald G. Davis
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Kelly Morrison
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