

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 319

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 1, 2017

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 is now the number one killer of children under 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas 1,100,000 children die every year due to complications of preterm birth;

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

Whereas there are stark inequalities in the survival rates of preterm babies born around the world;

Whereas complications from preterm birth 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 low-cost interventions;

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 adolescent and pre-pregnancy care, prenatal care, childbirth services, emergency obstetric care, post-natal care, and comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas according to data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, preterm-related causes are the leading contributors to infant death in the United States, accounting for more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of infant deaths;

Whereas while the preterm birth rate in the United States decreased from a peak of 12.8 percent in 2006, the preterm birth rate of 9.8 percent in 2016 is still too high;

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

Whereas the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies estimated in 2006 that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000;

Whereas many preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs focused on reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, inadequate birth spacing, 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) supports efforts at home and abroad—

5               (A) to reduce the impact of preterm births  
6       by improving maternal health during and after  
7       pregnancy; and

8               (B) to advance the care and treatment of  
9       infants born preterm;

10          (3) honors individuals working domestically and  
11       internationally to reduce preterm births; and

12          (4) expresses the intent of the Senate to pro-  
13       mote evidence-based prevention interventions to pre-  
14       vent preterm birth and improve outcomes for af-  
15       fected infants.

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