

2023  
**ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**



## Letter from the Director and Board Chair

With 2023, we continued to move forward advancing the Mom Congress mission and vision, thanks to the initial capacity grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Mom Congress had another successful year and was instrumental in passing critical legislation, developing the 2023 Moms' Agenda, growing and training members in policy and advocacy, and supporting new nonprofit partners.

Highlights include:

- Substantially expanding the Moms' Agenda and providing training on each of the bills.
- Hosting the 2023 Saving and Supporting Moms Congressional Briefing took place during our hill day in September on Capitol Hill, yielding 82 Agency or congressional staff members and 53 Nonprofit Organization or corporate representative registrants.
- We also had the opportunity to honor several Congressional champions during our Congressional Reception.

We invite you to learn more and dive into our annual report below.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ebony Wrenn".

**Ebony Wrenn, Ed.D**  
Newly Appointed Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Burkhard".

**Joy Burkhard, MBA**  
Founder and Board Chair

## Mission & Vision

Our mission is to serve, support, and advocate for all mothers and families across the U.S. to positively influence policy change. We work hard to bring the voices and needs of mothers facing racial and economic inequities to key stakeholders, including policy leaders.

Our vision is to develop member advocates in every Congressional district across the U.S. as empowered leaders to advance and shift the narrative for pressing policy issues impacting mothers and families.

## What We Do

Mom Congress is both a moment in DC and an ongoing movement, with the addition of a membership option. Members receive eNews letters, access to member town halls, and an online community. Members join Mom Congress with a particular interest in one of our policy pillars or 'caucus areas:'

- Paid Maternity/Paternity Leave & Child Care
- Preventing Maternal Death/Improving Birth
- Maternal Health Equity
- Maternal Mental Health

## Membership

We ended this year with 402 members, which included gaining over 100 new members in 2023. Our diverse membership includes delegates from across 45 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Armed Forces.

## Membership Demographics

Self-Reported by Members

| Totals - December 2023             | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Asian or Asian American            | 3.50%      |
| Black or African American          | 34%        |
| Hispanic                           | 5%         |
| Native Hawaiian   Pacific Islander | <1%        |
| White                              | 53%        |
| Native American                    | <1%        |



*“ Mom Congress has taught me that my voice matters and can be heard. They make it so easy to learn and advocate for legislation that I wouldn't likely understand on my own. The things I have learned through Mom Congress have carried over into my personal and professional life, and I'm a better person because of it. ” – Mom Congress Member*

## Member Engagement

Member engagement opportunities were held virtually and included:

- 13 Moms' Agenda Bill Trainings held with leaders such as
- 13 National Partner Actions Alerts
- Two Virtual Town Hall Sessions (also open to the public)

Additional virtual events included:

Member Networking, Maternal Health Awareness Day, Black Maternal Health Week Musical Healing Session, Mom Congress 101, and two working sessions on 'how to schedule a meeting with your legislator' (at home and in DC).

Also, in 2023 we soft-launched a Mom Congress in-district advocacy day as well as a Mom Congress Member Business Directory.

## Successfully Supported Bills

Mom Congress was instrumental in supporting the passage of the following five pieces of legislation from our Moms' Agenda in 2022:

### **Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act** [H.R.1218](#) / [S.198](#)

This bill looks at locations in the U.S. where there are high maternal mortality rates to increase broadband access to provide telemedicine in those locations. The bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps. Mom Congress first supported the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act in 2020. Read the White House Press Release [here](#).

### **PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act** [S. 1658](#) / [H.R. 3110](#)

The PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act will strengthen the [Break Time Law](#) by expanding protections for lactating workers. Mom Congress first supported the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act in 2020.

### **The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** [H.R. 1065](#) / [S. 1486](#)

This bill requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to support the health of pregnant workers. Read more about the powerful advocacy efforts made like this Advocacy op-ed published in [The Hill](#). This bill was included in our 2022 Moms' Agenda.

### **TRIUMPH for New Mom's Act** [H.R. 4217](#) / [S. 2779](#)

TRIUMPH calls for the formation of a temporary Federal interagency task force to coordinate efforts to address maternal mental health and to create a national strategic plan, including recommendations to state governors, House and Senate Committees, and relevant federal agencies to support and improve maternal mental health in the U.S. This bill was included in our 2022 Moms' Agenda.

### **Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health** [H.R. 7073](#) / [S. 3824](#)

Provides permanent mental health resources to moms across the country, from a 24/7 voice and text hotline to grants to states to support improved screening and treatment programs.

## The Moms' Agenda 2023

Mom Congress supports many pieces of legislation annually through calls to action, organizational sign-on letters, and direct advocacy by our members from across the United States. These bills are bipartisan and have been identified as having the potential to substantially improve the lives of mothers and their families in the United States. The 2023 Moms' Agenda included 11 bipartisan bills addressing the Mom Congress policy priorities and were advocated for during the Mom Congress Hill Day of Advocacy was held on September 19, 2023. The following bill package is called the "Moms' Agenda."



### MATERNAL HEALTH

#### **Midwives for MOMS Act** [H.R.3768](#), [S.1851](#)

This bill establishes grants within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for establishing or expanding midwifery programs at institutions of higher education and nursing schools. In awarding grants, HRSA must give special consideration to institutions that focus on increasing the number of midwife professionals from underrepresented groups and promote practicing in areas with limited access to professional health care. Midwives for Moms was also included in the 2022 Mom Congress Moms' Agenda.

#### **Healthy Moms and Babies Act** [S.948](#), House Version Number Expected Soon.

The Healthy Moms and Babies Act will improve maternal and child health care by:

- Coordinating and providing "whole-person" care, supporting outcome-focused and community-based prevention and support efforts, including stillbirth prevention activities, and expanding the maternal health workforce.
- Modernizing maternal health care through telehealth to support women of color and women living in rural America.
- Reducing maternal mortality and high-risk pregnancies and improving our understanding of social determinants of health in pregnant and postpartum women.

#### **Mothers and Newborns Success Act** [S.964](#), No House Bill at this time

The Mothers and Newborns Success Act will promote maternal health and reduce racial inequities in maternal and infant mortality by strengthening support for women during and after pregnancy, expanding maternal health research and data collection, and ensuring women are better matched with birthing facilities that meet their specific needs.

Specifically, the Mothers and Newborns Success Act would:

- Provide grants administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) State Maternal Health Innovation Program and the Supporting Maternal Health Innovation Program for states to create and implement plans to address disparities in maternal health and improve maternal health outcomes.

- Support the CDC’s work to classify birthing facilities so that patients know the risk-appropriate maternal and neonatal care level at each facility. This would help improve care delivery and health outcomes for expectant mothers and their infants.
- Support the CDC’s efforts to gather pregnancy checkbox data from death certificates to help provide more accurate data on maternal deaths.
- Support the CDC’s data collection on maternal attitudes and experiences during the pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods as well as efforts to provide technical assistance to states to ensure representation of communities of color in key datasets. This data would help determine and address gaps in care.
- Establish a pilot program through HRSA to identify and share best practices and evidence-based information on maternal health with providers and patients.
- Establish a National Maternal Health Research Network at the National Institute of Health (NIH) to support innovative research on the underlying causes of maternal mortality and their treatment.
- Support HRSA’s Rural Maternity and Obstetric Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program to improve access to and continuity of obstetrics care in rural communities, including through telehealth.
- Establish a public and provider awareness campaign through the CDC to promote awareness of maternal health warning signs and the importance of vaccinations for pregnant women and children.

### **Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023** [H.R.3838](#), [S.2415](#)

This bipartisan legislation would support states in preserving maternal health throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, addressing disparities in maternal health outcomes, and finding solutions to enhance health care quality and outcomes for mothers.

### **Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act**

**Mom Congress is a proud supporter of the 2023 Momnibus**, a package of 13 bills dedicated to ending preventable maternal mortality and closing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes.

## **MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH**

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### **Moms Matter Act** [H.R.3312](#), [S.1602](#)

This bill will invest in community-based programs that provide mental and behavioral health treatments and support to moms with maternal mental health conditions or substance use disorder, including:

- Group prenatal and postpartum care models
- Collaborative maternity care models
- Initiatives to address stigma and raise awareness about warning signs for maternal mental and behavioral health conditions
- Programs at freestanding birth centers
- Suicide prevention programs

The bill will also provide funding for programs to grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral health care workforce to expand access to culturally congruent care and support for pregnant and postpartum people with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

Mom Congress has been in support of the Moms Matter Act since 2020.

## LOSS

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### **SHINE for Autumn Act** [H.R.5012](#), [S.2647](#)

This bill authorizes grants and other programs to improve stillbirth data collection. Specifically, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) may award grants for surveillance and data collection on stillbirths, and HHS must issue guidelines for health departments and vital statistics units concerning the collection of stillbirth data. HHS must also develop educational awareness materials about stillbirths and make them publicly available.

Furthermore, HHS must implement a fellowship program to provide training in perinatal autopsy pathology and otherwise support research on stillbirths and fetal autopsies. The bill also requires HHS to issue a report with educational guidelines on stillbirths and stillbirth risk factors.

SHINE for Autumn was also included in the 2022 Mom Congress Moms' Agenda.

### **Maternal Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act** [H.R. 4581](#), [S. 2231](#)

This bill amends Title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research. The legislation recognizes that stillbirth (defined as the loss of a baby at 20 weeks or greater during pregnancy) and the disparity in those impacted by stillbirth requires further research, support, and prevention programming. It also calls for evidence-based programs and activities and outcome research to reduce the incidence of stillbirth.

### **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023** [H.R. 3226](#), [S. 1573](#)

Originally passed in 2006 and reauthorized in 2018, on December 31, 2023, research and programs made possible by the PREEMIE Act will be put at risk when authorization for these programs ends.

Key provisions of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act:

- Renewal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's research and programs on preterm birth, including improved tracking of national data
- Reauthorization of the Health Resources and Services Administration's activities aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth
- Provides for a new study on the costs, impact of social factors, gaps in public health programs that lead to prematurity, and calls for HHS to make recommendations to prevent preterm birth
- Establishment of an entity in the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate all federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes

## CHILD CARE

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In addition to supporting the bipartisan bills below, Mom Congress urges Congress to:

1. Immediately address the childcare funding crisis left as funding from the American Rescue Plan ends September 30, 2023. Childcare for millions of children and families nationwide will begin to disappear, with dire consequences for children, families' earnings, and state economies.
2. Provide America's working mothers and families with access to subsidized or built-in infrastructure for infant and child care. Just as farmers and airlines are subsidized and schools and fire departments are considered infrastructure, so should infant and childcare, and learning centers. Children are our future, and families our workforce.

**Improving Child Care for Working Families Act of 2023** [H.R.1421](#), No Senate bill at this time.

This bill increases the limitation on the exclusion from employee gross income for employer-paid dependent care assistance from \$5,000 to \$10,500.

**Expanding Child Care in Rural America Act of 2023** [H.R.3922](#), [S.1867](#)

This bill will direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to authorize and prioritize projects that address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in agricultural and rural communities through existing programs.

## PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

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**Mom Congress Urges Congress to Introduce and Pass a Bi-Partisan Paid Parental/Family Leave Bill**

Mom Congress will endorse a paid family leave program that, at a minimum, allows (1) parents to care for and bond with their new babies and (2) people to care for themselves or family members when they have serious health conditions, including postpartum (or other) mental health disorders. Paid leave shall be provided for at least three months and be available to all working people without the threat of losing their jobs.

Mom Congress applauds the work of the [Bipartisan Paid Family Leave Working Group](#) and urges them to work swiftly.

## CHILD TAX CREDIT

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**We Urge Congress to Introduce and Pass a Bi-Partisan Child Tax Credit Proposal**

Child Tax Credits have historically been bi-partisan support, and applaud bi-partisan solutions to increase these tax credits for all families and those with little to no taxable income.

## RESOLUTIONS

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[House Resolution No. 389](#)

Support frontline health workers

**Advance Equity and Inclusion**

- Address the gender gap in healthcare leadership and pay
- Ensure health workers reflect the populations they serve
- Improve access to care for rural and remote populations



## The “Moment”

### The 2023 Mom Congress Convention

In 2023, the Mom Congress Hill Day brought together mothers, partner organizations, and other stakeholders in DC to advocate for legislation to improve motherhood. Nearly 100 advocates gathered together on September 18th and 19th, representing 26 states.



### Noteworthy Attendee Quotes

*“ Walking with moms from across the nation on the issues and challenges we face decreases the isolation, the thinking this is only me, and creates a chorus of voices that increases our power, presence, and lives. We touched base on the most basic [element] of human existence, parenting.”*

*“ This experience with Mom Congress made me feel validated, supported, heard, and it also really pumped me up to continue advocating for my clients, my friends and family members who are mothers, as well as myself. Such an amazing and important time for moms! I'll be back next year!”*

## The Saving and Supporting Moms Congressional Briefing

During this briefing, members of Congress heard experts share the latest statistics and recommendations:

- The latest maternal mortality dataset from the CDC
- Research regarding paid parental leave and its impact on the economy
- Childcare post-Covid
- The current burden of maternal mental health and more

**Mom**★  
**CONGRESS™**  
Mom-Congress.com

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**THE SAVING AND SUPPORTING MOMS  
CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**

During this briefing, experts will discuss Maternal Health and Supporting Motherhood, including:

- the latest maternal mortality dataset from the CDC,
- research regarding paid parental leave and the impact on the economy,
- child care post-Covid,
- the current burden of maternal mental health and more.

**When:**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**  
Breakfast Provided: 8:15am ET  
Briefing: 8:45-10am ET

**Where:**  
**2045 Rayburn House Office Building**

**RSVP:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/fbbyznzf6>

**This is a not-to-miss briefing for every member of congress who prioritizes families.**

**Featuring:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Moderated by:</b><br/><b>Joy Burkhard, MBA</b><br/>Founder of Mom Congress</p>   | <p><b>Shanna Cox, MSPH</b><br/>Associate Director for<br/>Science Centers for Disease Control and<br/>Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health</p> |
| <p><b>Dana Suskind, MD</b><br/>Co-Director of the TMW Center for<br/>Early Learning + Public Health and<br/>Professor of Pediatrics, Surgery,<br/>and Public Policy (affiliated)<br/>University of Chicago</p> | <p><b>Ben Gitis, MBA</b><br/>Associate Director for Economic Policy<br/>Bipartisan Policy Center</p>  |
| <p><b>Lauren Hipp, MPA</b><br/>National Director of MomsRising</p>   | <p><b>Kay Matthews, LCHW</b><br/>Executive Director of Shades of Blue Project</p>   |

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**  
The Congressional  
Maternity Care Caucus

**SPONSORED BY:**  
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Here for her health

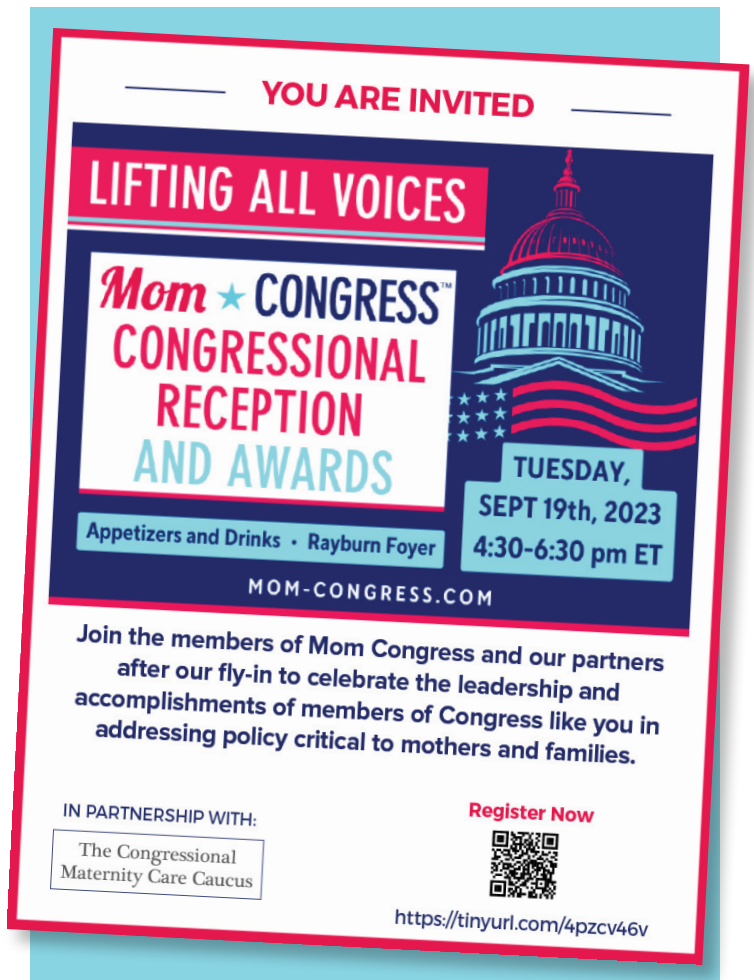
## Congressional Reception

Hill Day wrapped up with our **Mom Congress Congressional Awards Reception** being held in the Rayburn Foyer from 4:30-6:30 pm.

135 individuals registered for the Congressional Awards Reception.

Speakers included:

- Katharine Nasielski, CARE USA's Director for Government Relations
- Representative Kathy Castor, FL's 14th Congressional District
- Representative Buddy Carter, GA's 1st Congressional District
- Congresswoman Young Kim, CA's 40th Congressional District



## Highlights

- Nearly 100 advocates registered for the Mom Congress Hill Day, representing 26 states. Twenty full scholarships were awarded via the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's investment.
- It was the first time for 45 of the registered attendees to join Mom Congress in DC for our Advocacy Day in person.
- The 2023 Saving and Supporting Moms Congressional Briefing yielded 82 Hill Agencies/Staffers and 53 Nonprofit Orgs/ Companies registered.

## Meetings with Congress

Members scheduled and attended 88 meetings with Congressional Offices

- 38 House of Representatives meetings
- 44 Senate meetings
- 5 key committee meetings
- 1 meeting with a congressional working group

## Mom Congress Financials

Revenue: **\$319,818**

Expenses: **\$284,335**

Net Revenue: **\$35,852**

## The Next Chapter

The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health has been honored to found and incubate Mom Congress. This year, we filed for independent nonprofit status for Mom Congress so Mom Congress can continue to grow and attract independent philanthropic funding. The Policy Center's Executive Director will serve as the board chair, and the Policy Center will continue to provide staffing and "back-office" support.



## Looking Ahead to 2024

2024 will be a year of settling in as a newly established independent nonprofit and further developing and implementing our self-governing infrastructure as outlined in our bylaws. We continue to focus on growing our diverse membership through developing and empowering advocates as we continue to strive towards being the AARP of motherhood. We will begin our work to expand our reach to every Congressional district throughout the U.S.

In 2024, we will be hosting the Mom Congress Hill Day event in DC in May, rather than in September, given the numerous congressional seats and presidential election occurring in November.

This change in schedule will allow us to address the elections and empower more mothers/members to vote for the candidates they feel are most aligned with their personal views and prepared to support policies that are important to motherhood.

We invite you to join us on our journey by [signing up for our eNews letter](#) and [becoming a member or donor](#).

Together, we can make Mom Congress an unstoppable movement!

