

Grassroots support is sought for national recognition of life-threatening pregnancy disorder

*New York, NY – November 12, 2011* – The Preeclampsia Foundation launched its “Hear Us Now” petition drive to declare May “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” tonight at its 7th Annual Saving Grace – A Night of Hope and Gratitude gala in New York City, New York.

The [petition drive](#) aims to secure at least 2,500 signatures from November 12 through December 31, 2011, in support of designating May as “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” on the National Health Observances Calendar. Thirteen states or local jurisdictions across the United States have already officially recognized the month, but a national proclamation will allow the Foundation to further expand public awareness of this common and life-threatening disorder of pregnancy, distribute educational information and enhance both patient and provider literacy about preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

Preeclampsia is a disorder that occurs only during pregnancy and the postpartum period and affects both the mother and the unborn baby. Affecting at least 5-8% of all pregnancies, it is a rapidly progressive condition that takes the lives of 76,000 mothers and 500,000 babies annually, worldwide. Increased awareness by women, their families, and health care providers has been recognized as an important strategy for improving pregnancy outcomes.

“We want to use the “Hear Us Now” petition to demonstrate to Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the large amount of interest and support there is for addressing this life-threatening maternal health cause,” commented Eleni Tsigas, executive director of the Preeclampsia Foundation, the 501(c)(3) organization spearheading the campaign. “With the global population reaching 7 billion and an estimated 10 million women a year impacted by preeclampsia, the United States must take a leadership position in the improvement of worldwide maternal health. Our national recognition of preeclampsia’s impact on the lives of millions of mothers and babies is a critical first step.”

People interested in signing the petition need to provide their name and email address at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/preeclampsiaawarenessmonth](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/preeclampsiaawarenessmonth). There are also several ways to share this petition with others via Facebook and website widgets. Please visit [www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org) for more information about the Preeclampsia Foundation’s advocacy efforts.

## **“Hear Us Now” Petition Calls for National Preeclampsia Awareness Month**

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About the Preeclampsia Foundation: The Preeclampsia Foundation is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 2000. It is dedicated to providing patient support and education, raising public awareness, catalyzing research and improving health care practices, envisioning a world where preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and babies. For more information, visit [www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org) or call toll-free (800) 665-9341.