

Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) support Preeclampsia Foundation petition for designation on HHS National Health Observances Calendar

WASHINGTON, DC – January 25, 2012 – Three influential members of the Congressional Caucus on Women’s Issues --Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) offered their support for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to designate May as National Preeclampsia Awareness month. In a letter to the Department, the Congresswomen expressed their interest in having a federal designation on the National Health Observances Calendar, beginning in May 2012.

Preeclampsia is a dangerous condition of pregnancy, which when severe, can lead to maternal or infant mortality, premature birth or other significant health complications. In November 2011, the Preeclampsia Foundation launched a national petition requesting support for a federal calendar designation, receiving over 3,000 signatures over a six-week period from women, their families, health care providers and others supportive of the cause.

“On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Foundation, we applaud the Congresswomen for their steadfast commitment to improve the health of women and babies and efforts to raise awareness about preeclampsia,” said Eleni Tsigas, Executive Director of the Preeclampsia Foundation. “The U.S. Department of Health is focused on achieving the “triple aim” of better health, better care, and lower costs. By educating more women and their health providers about preeclampsia and the importance of prenatal care, the Foundation can be a partner in this effort.”

In their letter to HHS, the Congresswomen emphasized the designation’s potential to proactively promote the work of the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration to conduct research, provide states and counties support, and provide public health information about preeclampsia and maternal and infant health and well-being.

### **About the Preeclampsia Foundation**

The Preeclampsia Foundation is the only national nonprofit patient advocacy organization for the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Through their national fundraising events the Promise Walk for Preeclampsia™ and Saving Grace – A Night of Hope™, the Preeclampsia Foundation works to achieve its mission to provide patient support and education, raise public awareness, catalyze research and improve health care practices. For more information, call toll free (800)

## **Congress Members Join National Preeclampsia Awareness Month Efforts**

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 - Last Updated Thursday, January 26, 2012

---

665-9341 or visit [www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org).