

Washington, DC: May 1, 2013 – Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-4), Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) and

Congresswoman Lois Capps (CA-24)

released this statement in recognition of the first ever National Preeclampsia Awareness Month designation.

"Despite our growing awareness of maternal health complications in the developing world, we still have much to do here at home to improve understanding of maternal health risks, recognizing warning signs, and identifying ways to prevent these threats to the health of mothers and their children. Right here in the United States we still have women dying every day from pregnancy-related complications and our prematurity rates are still much too high. Raising awareness of preeclampsia among women, their families, and their medical providers is an important step to improving birth outcomes for our nation's babies and mothers," said **Congres swoman Capps**

. "Thank you to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for her leadership in obtaining this important designation."

"Designating May as Preeclampsia Awareness Month is a good step toward stemming the incidence of this potentially fatal condition impacting mothers and their newborns. By educating women, their families and their providers to recognize the warning signs and stressing the importance of seeking prenatal care, it is possible to prevent unnecessary deaths of mothers and their children," said **Congresswoman Roybal-Allard**. "I am so proud to have played an active role in helping to designate May as National Preeclampsia Awareness Month," said **Rep. Moore**

. "As the immediate past Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I am committed to improving maternal and infant health. Preeclampsia is a very real disorder that affects thousands of mothers and infants in America and around the globe. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of awareness surrounding preeclampsia and the danger it poses to maternal and infant health. This month and always, I urge everyone to do all they can to raise awareness about this disorder."

Preeclampsia is a life-threatening disorder that occurs during pregnancy or in the postpartum

Congresswomen Recognize National Preeclampsia Awareness Month

Thursday, May 02, 2013 - Last Updated Monday, May 13, 2013

period, fatally impacting thousands of mothers and infants each year. To learn more about preeclampsia visit the Preeclampsia Foundation website