The Honorable ______________
U.S. House of Representatives
[or U.S. Senate]
Washington, DC 20515

Dear [Representative]____________:

As a constituent and supporter of the Preeclampsia Foundation, I am writing to ask for your support of H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017 [or S. 1112, the Maternal Health Accountability Act of 2017]. This bipartisan legislation supports states in their effort to identify the reasons why moms die during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, and use their findings to improve healthcare quality and savings, and ultimately inform change. This legislation is so urgently needed as women in the United States are needlessly dying from pregnancy-related complications at a higher rate than women in 47 other countries.

The U.S. maternal mortality rate continues to grow, and more women in the U.S. die from complications related to pregnancy than most other developed countries. Recent studies have shown that at least 41 percent of maternal deaths were likely preventable. Unfortunately, these odds of dying in childbirth worsen for low-income women and women of color. Pregnant women in low-income communities are twice as likely to die giving birth as women in higher-income areas. African-American women face three to four times the risk of dying from a birth- or pregnancy-related complication compared to their Caucasian peers.

No mom or baby should ever die from preventable circumstances. [BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHY THIS ISSUE IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.] It is critical that we better understand these issues, so we can prevent them from taking place in the future.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request to pass the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017 [or S. 1112, the Maternal Health Accountability Act of 2017]. I stand ready to work with you to achieve passage of this important legislation. Please contact me at [YOUR PHONE NUMBER] if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]