

## THE REACH EVERY MOTHER AND CHILD ACT (S. 1730, H.R. 4022)

Ending Preventable Maternal, Newborn, and Child Deaths Worldwide

### QUICK FACTS

- » 15,000 children under the age of 5 die each day
- » About every 100 seconds, a woman dies from complications during pregnancy or childbirth
- » In developing countries, pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls 15 to 19
- » Nearly two-thirds of newborn deaths are preventable

## Introduction

The Reach Every Mother and Child Act is a bold, bipartisan policy initiative developed and supported by a diverse group of nongovernmental and faith-based organizations. This transformative legislation can dramatically accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths worldwide—helping end them completely by 2030.

## Why it matters

Since 1990, deaths of children under age 5 worldwide have been cut in half, declining faster than ever from 2000 to 2015. Also since 1990, maternal mortality worldwide dropped by about 44 percent. This is one of the greatest success stories in international development. Progress has largely been achieved with simple solutions and proven, inexpensive interventions to address leading causes of death, including diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition, and complications during pregnancy and birth. The U.S. has helped lead the way. Progress cannot stop now.

### ASK

The United States helps improve the lives of mothers and children by building the capacity of countries to care for them and ensure they reach their full potential. The U.S. has committed to take even more aggressive action to save 15 million children's lives and 600,000 women's lives within a generation. These goals are ambitious, but experts agree: They are achievable. **Please co-sponsor the Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S. 1730, H.R. 4022).**



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. ADV10801\_0717 © 2017 World Vision, Inc.

## We know what works

World Vision has decades of experience in preventing maternal, newborn, and child deaths. Low-cost, high-impact strategies include:

- » Routine immunization; antibiotics to treat pneumonia
- » Distribution and use of bed nets to stop malaria
- » Oral rehydration therapy and zinc supplementation to treat diarrhea
- » Access to the high-quality information and resources women need to effectively time and space their pregnancies
- » Prenatal care and delivery care for mothers
- » Key nutrition interventions such as promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and vitamin A supplementation
- » Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene
- » Training more local health workers to increase access to community health services for mothers and children

### ABOUT THE BILL

This bill would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to help scale the solutions that save lives, without new spending. Specifically, it would:

- Coordinate a U.S. strategy to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths by 2030
- Require ambitious targets to be set, tracked, and annually reported on
- Focus on the poorest and most vulnerable populations by recognizing their unique needs and accelerate partner country progress toward self-sustainability
- Improve coordination among U.S. government agencies, foreign governments, and international organizations
- Complement strong U.S. bilateral investments with innovative, public-private financing mechanisms

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