

March of Dimes Foundation

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The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

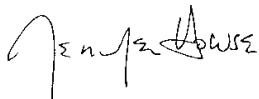
On behalf of the March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers affiliated with chapters representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, I am writing to express our support for S. 942, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

In 1978, Congress passed the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which outlawed any discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. However, reports indicate that pregnant working women are still sometimes denied access to necessary accommodations related to their well-being during pregnancy. Low-wage workers in particular may be faced with the apparent choice between compromising their health or risking losing their job.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to address the health needs of pregnant working women. The bill would entitle pregnant women to simple accommodations, such as a stool so that a pregnant cashier can sit instead of stand, or an exception from a rule against drinking water during work. Exemptions are provided for cases when such accommodations would present an unreasonable burden for the employer. With such accommodations, however, many women could continue to work without risk to themselves or their pregnancies.

The March of Dimes thanks you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every infant has a healthy start to life. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Steffany Stern at 202-659-1800 or sstern@marchofdimes.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer L. Howse
President