

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC), the largest public policy women's organization in the country, I write in strong support of H.R.8384/S.4541, the Standing With Moms Act, by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-South Carolina) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida).

This bill would create a website, *life.gov*, that would list local, state, and federal resources available for expectant moms and families. This initiative would compile both public and private sector information, which in a post-*Roe* America, is more vital than ever.

Eighty-five percent of women who had abortions in 2019 were unmarried.¹ Mothers with unexpected pregnancies suffer fear of whether they can get support during pregnancy and after the child is born. If the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was a country, it would have the 14th highest GDP worldwide, right between Australia and Spain.² A website administered by HHS leverages its resources, preexisting intergovernmental relationships, and credibility intrinsic to a “.gov” address.

Users will be able to access information like:

- abortion risks at all stages of fetal gestation, including complications and failures,
- child development from moment of conception,
- comprehensive information on alternatives to abortion, and
- mental health and pregnancy counseling, and other prepartum and postpartum services.

This one-stop-shop website would also be a tool for an expectant mom to learn about the public and private resources available in her zip code to assist her throughout pregnancy and afterward. The resources would cover areas of need like:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| • abortion pill reversal | • family planning education | • mentorship, work, education opportunities |
| • adoption services | • financial assistance | • OB-GYN services |
| • breastfeeding protections | • food and nutrition assistance | • perinatal hospice, pregnancy loss, infant loss resources |
| • childcare, family leave | • foster care, short-term care | • prenatal diagnostic services |
| • clothing, household, baby supplies | • housing support | • primary and dental care |
| | • legal support | |

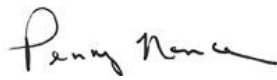
¹ Jeff Diament & Besheer Mohamed, “What the data says about abortion in the U.S.,” Pew Research Center (Jun. 24, 2022), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/24/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>.

² The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spent \$1.46 trillion in 2021. According to World Bank, Spain ranked 14 with a GDP of \$1.42 trillion in 2021.

- services for domestic, sexual violence
- substance abuse recovery, mental health services
- support services for abortion survivors and their families
- transportation support
- tax preparation

Expectant mothers need to know what is available to them. This is common sense legislation, and we thank Rep. Mace and Sen. Rubio for championing women and babies. Please cosponsor H.R.8384/S.4541, the Standing With Moms Act.

Sincerely,



Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America LAC

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* **AMERICA**
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Frequently Asked Questions

How can this bill alleviate the maternal mortality crisis in America?

The Standing With Moms Act requires a report to Congress on insights in gaps in services for pregnant and postpartum women. This would equip policymakers and leaders with information necessary to reduce maternal mortality. We already know that the maternal mortality crisis is due in part to resource shortages in areas like maternity care, pharmacies, grocery stores, and ease of transportation.³ Information is power and will be key to closing these gaps.

Could this bill allow the website to advertise for abortion?

No. Unlike the Biden Administration, which advertises for abortionfinder.org on the taxpayer-funded reproductiverights.gov, the Standing With Moms Act does not provide a platform for abortion or its peddlers. The Act explicitly excludes listings from affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, and clinics that perform, induce, refer for, or counsel in favor of abortions, or that provide financial support to any other organization that conducts such activities.

How will the website be maintained?

Life.gov would be maintained at the highest level of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that it remains a priority across administrations and sessions of Congress. To best serve the mission for a comprehensive resource portal, the bill would create a grant program for states to establish *and support* a system that aggregates the resources that would appear on life.gov.

Do any states currently have a life.gov analog?

South Dakota announced it will launch life.sd.gov, a website “to help women navigate pregnancy, birth, parenting, and adoption.”⁴ North Dakota has a website, thedecisionismine.org, to advise on resources available for unplanned pregnancies.⁵ Many other states have compilations of resources available in the state for pregnancy and parenting. They have different names and come in different formats but are similar in concept, e.g., Kentucky (packet),⁶ Texas (website),⁷ Arkansas (hotline),⁸ Pennsylvania (contractor), Michigan (contractor), and Indiana

³ Mary Szoeh & Joy Stockbauer, “Maternal Mortality: A Case Study in Washington, D.C.,” Family Research Council (Jul. 2022), <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF22G21.pdf#page=2>.

⁴ Governor Kristi Noem, “Life.SD.gov,” YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQj95QOE_Ns (last accessed Jul. 25, 2022).

⁵ “TheDecisionismine.org,” <https://thedecisionismine.org/> (last accessed Jul. 25, 2022).

⁶ “Available Resources for Pregnant Women” (revised Feb. 2020), <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dwh/Documents/FPHB85BookletResourcesForPregnantWomen.pdf>.

⁷ Texas Health and Human Services, “Alternatives to Abortion,” <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/women-children/alternatives-abortion> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

⁸ HB1195, to create the Every Mom Matters Act; to provide healthcare support to pregnant women in Arkansas; and to stabilize families and reduce the number of abortions performed in the state, available at

(contractor),⁹ Missouri (website),¹⁰ Oklahoma (grant program),¹¹ Minnesota (grant program),¹² Ohio (grant program),¹³ Louisiana (pamphlet),¹⁴ Georgia (grant program),¹⁵ North Carolina (website),¹⁶ and Virginia (fund).¹⁷

Why not leave this project to the private sector or existing government websites?

There are valuable, privately run directories like Standing With You¹⁸ and Her PLAN (Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network).¹⁹ But these are independent efforts with limited resources. If the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was a country, it would have the 14th highest GDP worldwide, right between Australia and Spain.²⁰ The Standing With Moms Act would create a website administered by HHS that leverages its resources, preexisting intergovernmental relationships, and credibility intrinsic to a “.gov” address.

Further, the Standing With Moms Act would take valuable information already available in existing government websites and make it accessible—certain state resources, for instance, are visually outdated, only knowable by reading the State Code, or nested in large, unwieldy government websites.

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Bills/Detail?id=HB1195&ddBienniumSession=2021%2F2021R&Search=> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

⁹ “Our Purpose,” Real Alternatives, <https://www.realalternatives.org/our-mission/> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁰ Missouri Department of Social Services, “Alternatives to Abortion,” <https://dss.mo.gov/fsd/a2a/> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹¹ Section 1-740.11 - Funding to Nongovernmental Entities That Provide Alternatives-to-Abortion Services, available at <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=446865> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹² MN Department of Health, “Positive Alternatives Overview,” <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/positivealt/overview.html> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹³ Ohio Right to Life, “Parenting and Pregnancy Program,” https://www.ohiolife.org/parenting_and_pregnancy_program (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁴ Louisiana Department of Health, “Women’s Right to Know,” <https://ldh.la.gov/news/category/131> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁵ Life Resources of Georgia, “Grant Administration,” <https://www.liferesourcesga.com/grant-administration> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁶ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, “Pregnancy Services,” <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/pregnancy-services/pregnancy-services> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁷ Code of Virginia § 32.1-11.6. Virginia Pregnant Women Support Fund; purpose; guidelines, available at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title32.1/chapter1/section32.1-11.6/> (last visited Jul. 25, 2022).

¹⁸ Katie Everett, “Nance Gives Remarks at the ‘Standing with You’ Press Conference” (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://concernedwomen.org/nance-gives-remarks-at-the-standing-with-you-press-conference/>.

¹⁹ Her PLAN (Her Pregnancy and Life Assistance Network), <https://herplan.org/> (last accessed Jul. 24, 2022).

²⁰ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spent \$1.46 trillion in 2021. According to World Bank, Spain ranked 14 with a GDP of \$1.42 trillion in 2021.