To address maternal mortality and morbidity.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2019

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To address maternal mortality and morbidity.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards Act of 2019” or the “MOMS Act”.

SEC. 2. MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY PREVENTION.

Section 317K of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–12) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (g); and
(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the follow-

“(d) PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM SAFETY AND 
MONITORING PRACTICES AND MATERNAL MORTALITY 
AND MORBIDITY PREVENTION.—

“(1) ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION ON MATERNAL 
HEALTH.—The Secretary, acting through the Asso-
ciate Administrator of the Maternal and Child 
Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services 
Administration, shall establish a program, known as 
the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health pro-
gram, to—

“(A) enter into a contract with an inter-
disciplinary, multi-stakeholder, national organi-
zation promulgating a national data-driven ma-
ternal safety and quality improvement initiative 
based on evidence-based best practices to im-
prove maternal safety and outcomes;

“(B) assist States with the development 
and implementation of postpartum safety and 
monitoring practices and maternal mortality 
and morbidity prevention, based on the best 
practices developed under paragraph (2); and

“(C) improve State-specific maternal 
health outcomes and reduce variation in re-
response to maternity and postpartum care, in
order to eliminate preventable maternal mor-
tality and severe maternal morbidity.
“(2) BEST PRACTICES.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
after the date of enactment of the Modernizing
Obstetric Medicine Standards Act of 2019, the
Secretary, acting through the Administrator of
the Health Resources and Services Administra-
tion, shall work with the contracting entity
under paragraph (1)(A) to—
“(i) create and assist State-based col-
laborative teams in the implementation of
standardized best practices, to be known as
‘maternal safety bundles’, for the purpose
of maternal mortality and morbidity pre-
vention; and
“(ii) collect and analyze data related
to process structure and patient outcomes
to drive continuous quality improvement in
the implementation of the maternal safety
bundles by such State-based teams.
“(B) MATERNAL SAFETY BUNDLES.—The
best practices issued under subparagraph (A)
may address the following topics:
“(i) Obstetric hemorrhage.

“(ii) Maternal mental, behavioral, and emotional health.

“(iii) Maternal venous and thromboembolism.

“(iv) Severe hypertension in pregnancy, including preeclampsia.

“(v) Obstetric care for women with substance abuse disorder.

“(vi) Postpartum care basics for maternal safety.

“(vii) Reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in maternity care.

“(viii) Safe reduction of primary cesarean birth.

“(ix) Severe maternal morbidity review.

“(x) Support after a severe maternal morbidity event.

“(xi) Ways to empower and listen to women before, during, and after childbirth to ensure better communication between patients and health care providers.
“(xii) Other leading causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, including infection or sepsis and cardiomyopathy.

“(3) Authorization of Appropriations.—

To carry out this subsection, in addition to amounts appropriated under subsection (g), there are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

SEC. 3. MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY PREVENTION GRANTS.

Section 317K of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–12), as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Prevention Grant Program.—

“(1) In general.—The Secretary, acting through the Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall award grants to States or hospitals to assist in the development and implementation of the maternal safety bundles described in subsection (d)(2).

“(2) Use of funds.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or hospital receiving a grant under this subsection may use such funds—

“(i) to purchase equipment and supplies to effectively implement and execute the maternal safety bundles described in subsection (d)(2); and

“(ii) to develop training on, and evaluation of the effectiveness of, such maternal safety bundles.

“(B) PRIORITY USE OF FUNDS FOR STATE GRANTEEES.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection shall allocate such funds giving priority to the hospitals in such State that serve high volumes of low-income, at-risk, or rural populations.

“(3) PRIORITIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize applications from States, or hospitals within States, that—

“(A) have a functioning maternal mortality review committee in accordance with best practices promulgated by the Building U.S. Capacity to Review and Prevent Maternal Deaths Initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, the CDC Foundation, and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs; or

“(B) serve high volumes of low-income, at-risk, or rural populations.

“(4) Reporting requirements.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 2 years after receipt of a grant under this subsection, each recipient of such a grant shall submit a report to the Secretary describing—

“(i) implementation of the maternal safety bundles with use of the grant funds; “

“(ii) any incidents of pregnancy-related deaths or pregnancy-associated deaths, and any pregnancy-related complications or pregnancy-associated complications occurring in the 1-year period prior to implementation of such procedures; and

“(iii) any incidents of pregnancy-related deaths or pregnancy-associated deaths, and any pregnancy-related complications or pregnancy-associated complications occurring after implementation of such procedures.
“(B) Public availability; report to Congress.—Within 1 year of receiving the reports under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) make the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available; and

“(ii) submit a report to Congress that describes the grants awarded under this subsection, the effectiveness of the grant program under this subsection, the activities for which grant funds were used, and any recommendations to further prevent maternal mortality and morbidity.

“(C) Authorization of appropriations.—To carry out this subsection, in addition to amounts appropriated under subsection (g), there are authorized to be appropriated $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

“(f) Definitions.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘pregnancy-associated death’ and ‘pregnancy-associated complication’ mean the death or medical complication, respectively, of a woman that occurs during, or within 1 year following, her
pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, duration, or site of the pregnancy;

“(2) the terms ‘pregnancy-related death’ and ‘pregnancy-related complication’ mean the death or medical complication, respectively, of a woman that—

“(A) occurs during, or within 1 year following, her pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, duration, or site of the pregnancy;

“(B) is from any cause related to, or aggravated by, the pregnancy or its management; and

“(C) is not from an accidental or incidental cause; and

“(3) the term ‘severe maternal morbidity’ means the unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman’s health.”.

SEC. 4. REPORTING ON PREGNANCY-RELATED AND PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED DEATHS AND COMPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall encourage each State to voluntarily submit to the Secretary each year a report containing the findings of a State maternal mortality review committee
with respect to each maternal death in the State that the
committee reviewed during the year.

(b) MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH.—The Director
of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall—

(1) update the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System or develop a separate system so that
such system is capable of including data obtained
from State maternal mortality review committees;
and

(2) provide technical assistance to States in re-
viewing cases of pregnancy-related complications and
pregnancy-associated complications.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “preg-
nancy-associated complication” and “pregnancy-related
complication” have the meanings given such terms in sec-
tion 317K of the Public Health Service Act, as amended
by section 3.