Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S. 1451)

The Problem:

- Although the global number of deaths of mothers and children under 5 have been nearly cut in half in the last 25 years, approximately 800 women still die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. This number is amplified due to the effects of COVID-19, as an estimated 56,700 additional maternal deaths could occur over a six-month period without intervention.

- An estimated total of 6,000 additional children under 5 could die per day due to the impact of COVID-19 on health care systems. The lack of available health services due to the secondary consequences of the pandemic is widely acknowledged, as 68% of countries reported interference in health checks for children and immunization services.

- The risk of a woman dying in childbirth is 47 times higher in Africa than in the U.S. and it is projected that more than 17,000 children under 5 years old will die each day of treatable conditions.

The Solution: The bipartisan Reach Every Mother and Child Act will strengthen the U.S. government’s efforts to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and young children in developing countries by:

- requiring a five-year, comprehensive strategy with specific, measurable goals to end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths by 2030;

- designating a current U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) employee to serve as the Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator, focused on implementing strategies to ensure that the most effective interventions are scaled up in target countries;

- encouraging the executive branch to develop a financing framework to leverage commitments from the private sector, nonprofits, partner countries and multinational organizations;

- requiring an annual report to Congress on progress made, ensuring that U.S. taxpayer resources are being efficiently invested

Supporters:

- The bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) along with Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), to help improve the health of mothers and children through providing vaccines, clean birthing practices and nutritional supplements.

- A previous version of the bill (S.1766) gained strong bipartisan support in the 116th session, with 31 co-sponsors in the Senate.