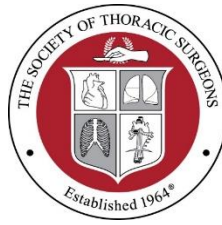


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November 30, 2023

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman, MD
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robin Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S. 1573/H.R. 3226, PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023

Dear Senators Bennet and Boozman, and Representatives Eshoo and Kelly,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for sponsoring S. 1573/H.R. 3226, the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act). Last reauthorized in 2018 and expiring in 2023, the PREEMIE Act represents the federal government's commitment to preventing preterm birth and its consequences, including being the leading contributor to infant death.

Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,700 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

We deeply appreciate your leadership on this legislation because our specialty treats many of the challenges presented by premature infants, particularly those grappling with neonatal cardiac diseases, pulmonary hypertension, chronic lung disease, and airway disease. These conditions not only pose significant health risks but also contribute to financial burdens and emotional stress for affected families. We applaud your commitment to addressing these challenges and the urgent need for continued targeted research in this critical area of neonatal care. Your leadership in reauthorizing the PREEMIE Act signifies a vital step toward improving the outcomes for premature infants, reducing the associated healthcare costs, and advancing our collective understanding of preventable measures.

Thank you once again for your commitment to advance the health and welfare of premature infants. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in this endeavor.

Please contact Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy, at mpeltzman@sts.org, or Derek Brandt, Vice President of Government Affairs, at dbrandt@sts.org, should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. MacGillivray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas E. MacGillivray, MD
President