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***National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health (NCMMH)
applauds President Obama's Signing of the 21st Century Cures Act***

A victory for maternal mental health advocates!

Washington, D.C. - [December 13, 2016] - For Immediate Release -

Today, the National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health (NCMMH) applauds President Obama's signing of the **21st Century Cures Act**, legislation that includes key maternal mental health provisions. The bill overwhelmingly passed the House (392-26) and Senate (94-5) last week.

In a released statement, the President said, "**The Cures Act** takes important steps to improve mental health, including building on the work of my Administration's Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force."

This medical research funding bill enhances mental health and substance use treatment for children and families, and the support for screening and treatment of maternal depression. The maternal mental health provisions provide states federal grants to develop and maintain programs for better education, screening and treatment of postpartum depression. The grants would service women who are pregnant and/or given birth in the past 12 months. These grants would be available to no less than three states, and gives five million dollars annually (if funded).

NCMMH's sponsored bill, ***Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act***, authored by **Congressmember Katherine Clark**, was included in the **21st Century Cures Act**.

"No mom should feel alone while suffering from the pain, isolation, and frustration that comes with postpartum depression," said Clark. "The health and success of families include -- and begin with -- the whole health of our moms. The passage of the Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act means we're taking active steps to break down the stigmas that have kept moms from getting the care they need and deserve. "

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, postpartum depression is the most common, yet most under-diagnosed, obstetrical complication in the country. Research suggests up to 20% of the approximately 4 million U.S. women who give birth annually will be affected by a maternal mental health disorder, including depression, anxiety and psychosis, which occur during pregnancy and up to one year postpartum. Research suggests that only about 15% of those 800,000 women will be screened and get the help they need. However, there are effective treatments for these disorders and women do not need to suffer in silence.

NCMMH Advocacy Director, Jamie Zahlaway Belsito says “The NCMMH is thrilled by the President’s signing of the **21st Century Cures Act**, and we plan to work with the next Congress to make sure funding is appropriated to help pregnant and new mother’s all across the country.”

About the National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health: Founded in 2013, the National Coalition for Maternal Mental Health (NCMMH) brings together the nation’s leading non-profits focused on maternal mental health to engage in collective impact, through engagement, advocacy and awareness. Member organizations include and are not limited to: **2020 Mom** (Los Angeles, Calif.), **Jenny’s Light** (El Dorado Hills, Calif.), **Junior League of San Francisco** (San Francisco, Calif.), **Maternal Mental Health Now** (Los Angeles, Calif.), **MotherWoman** (Hadley, Mass.), **Postpartum Health Alliance** (San Diego, Calif.), **Postpartum Progress** (Atlanta, Ga.), **Postpartum Support International** (Portland, Ore.), and **Utah Maternal Mental Health Collaborative** (Salt Lake City, Utah).

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*The NCMMH unites organizational leadership dedicated to improve maternal mental health care through collective advocacy and awareness efforts nationwide.
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