

Transcript of Rep. Gwen Moore's One Minute Statement Regarding: Maternal Mortality

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1022, a resolution recognizing maternal health as a basic human right of all women. How appropriate to stand here a week after Mother's Day in support of this common-sense initiative.

1 in 8 women die in Afghanistan due to complications resulting from pregnancy and childbirth. 1 in 8. It's the same story in many other countries around the world. A large majority of these deaths are easily - and inexpensively - preventable. Unfortunately, many of these mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends never see any type of health professional at any point in their pregnancy, and lack access to even the most basic healthcare.

This is not just a third world problem. The United States, a leader in medical technology, has one of the worst rankings for maternal mortality of all of the industrialized nations. We come in at a dismal 41st place, which means that a woman and her baby have a better chance of surviving a pregnancy in Kuwait or Croatia than they do in the United States.

There are cheap and effective solutions that can significantly reduce the rates of maternal mortality here and abroad, and I look forward to the continuing work of the Women's Caucus to make sure that we invest in these solutions.

With that I yield back the balance of my time.