

Stillbirth Research and Education  
Submission 3

Members of the Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education:

I read with great interest about your work to prevent stillbirths in Australia. I lost a full-term baby girl in 2003 while serving in the Iowa House of Representatives. Since then, I have worked to help our state reduce its stillbirth rate. Several years ago, we launched a campaign called Count the Kicks in Iowa that teaches parents-to-be how to track their babies' movements daily during the third trimester of pregnancy. If a parent notices a change in the baby's normal movement pattern, we urge them to contact their provider immediately as it may be an early indicator that something is wrong with the baby. Our state's stillbirth rate has dropped every year since the program began. We've seen an overall decrease in stillbirths by 26% since the campaign began. Our campaign is continuing to grow in the U.S. and several other countries through our Count the Kicks smartphone app and outreach. We would be honored to help you save babies in Australia.

If Australia achieved the same success in saving babies as we have achieved in Iowa through Count the Kicks, your country could save more than 569 babies every year. We know saving babies also saves families too.

The campaign is run through the nonprofit organization I founded with four other moms - Healthy Birth Day, Inc. Our website is a great resource to learn more about our campaign and to read stories about babies saved through the program.  
[www.countthekicks.org](http://www.countthekicks.org)<<http://www.countthekicks.org>> Our executive director is Ms. Emily Price.

My best to you for this worthy initiative. A special thank you to Senator Kristina Keneally for sharing your story to help save other families from losing a baby to stillbirth.

Sincerely,

Janet Petersen  
Senate Democratic Leader  
Des Moines, Iowa