

For Immediate Release

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**MISS Foundation continues to bring honor and recognition to still born babies  
and their families across the US:  
*Certificate of Birth Resulting in Still Birth* has now passed in 31 states:**

**(Phoenix, AZ)** Every year close to 30,000 babies are born still. The cause of death for more than half the number of full-term (40-week) stillbirths is unknown, even after autopsy. Prior to 2001, families only received a death certificate, leaving them to feel as if their child never truly existed.

In 2001, the MISSing Angels Bill was first passed in Arizona in an effort to give recognition, through legal documentation, and honor to babies who died before or during their birth. A bereaved mother, and MISS Foundation founder, Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, whose daughter died during birth, on her due date, introduced the MISSing Angels Bill.

This bill allowed for a *Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS)* to be issued, upon the request of the parents. Now, parents of stillborn babies across the country have united in their efforts to pass this legislation. Since 2001, the MISSing Angels bill has passed in 30 additional states, bringing the total to 31 states, nationally.

In fact, the importance of this family issue has gained significant momentum as three states passed this legislation this week alone. New York passed the CBRS after 10 years of tireless lobbying of bereaved parents and conscientious legislators along with Alabama and North Carolina.

New York's Senator Timothy M. Kennedy, D-58th District, said of his state's legislative action, "So many families have experienced the tragic loss of a stillbirth. It's an emotional roller coaster – the excitement and anticipation of expecting a child followed by the deep pain and sadness of losing your son or daughter. Add the physical pain of giving birth, and mothers especially are left feeling an indescribable amount of distress and hurt."

When asked her reaction to this week's legislative victories, Cacciatore proudly states. "No other family in these states will ever know what it's like to feel that sense of disrespect or indignity or non-recognition."

*The [MISS Foundation](#) is an international nonprofit organization and C.A.R.E.S for families facing the death of a child. If you have further questions, or need additional information, please contact MISS Foundation Executive Director, Kathy Sandler, MSW, at 480-861-7511 or at [kathy.sandler@missfoundation.org](mailto:kathy.sandler@missfoundation.org).*

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