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Senator Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
11 Bladen Street Annapolis,  
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**Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust**  
**Senate Bill 879**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Chairperson Kelley:

Good afternoon, my name is Dr. E. Albert Reece, and I am the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland Baltimore, and Dean of the School of Medicine. I am also an obstetrician-gynecologist, with sub-specialty training in high-risk obstetrics. In addition, I also serve as Co-chair of the Maryland Medicine Comprehensive Insurance Program, a joint venture self-insurance program of the clinical faculty organization of the School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical System.

I have committed my career to caring for patients and educating the next generation of physicians in Maryland and the nation. I testify today in strong support of SB 879.

Marylanders deserve high-quality obstetric care, yet the medical liability environment in the state has produced a profound chilling effect on the ability of our hospitals and universities to retain top talent, particularly in this critically important field.

It's important to note, despite what some may contend, that most adverse outcomes at delivery are NOT caused by specific and preventable actions by a physician. Adverse birth outcomes cannot just be labeled bad medicine.

The bottom line is this---it is simplistic, and simply wrong, to think that the external, indirect, and often subjective means of assessing fetal health and well-being will pick up the precise fetal condition, and that intervention can avoid injury 100% of the time.

Our medical students and physicians in training have options for where to practice, and it should be our shared goal to ensure that they stay and care for patients here in our state.

A 2017 report surveyed more than 4,000 Ob-Gyns and found:

- 85% of them had been named in a lawsuit
- 44% of those ob-gyns indicated that the threat of malpractice influences their actions ALL or MOST of the time

All of these issues cause extreme difficulty for those of us encouraging medical students to go into obstetrics, and to recruit and retain doctors in the field of obstetrics.

SB 879 is a common-sense proposal that brings rationality to this issue.

Under this bill, families may still hold hospitals accountable. At the same time, this bill provides reassurance to hospitals and providers that they will not face skyrocketing, career-ending insurance premiums. Most importantly, it provides guaranteed lifetime care to patients who need it most.

On behalf of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, I strongly support Senate Bill 879.

Sincerely yours,



**E. Albert Reece, MD, Ph , IGIBA**

*Executive Vice President*

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Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland  
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