

Maryland Families for Safe Birth, Inc.



March 5th, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Members of the House HGO Committee:

Maryland Families for Safe Birth is a grassroots, consumer based organization dedicated to improving maternity care in the state of Maryland. We represent all families in Maryland, with the support of over 1000 active members. We are writing in support of House Bill 1067.

Many of our members and their families have had positive birth outcomes with doulas to help navigate the transformation that a mother undergoes during pregnancy and childbirth. A doula is a trained birth professional whose knowledge and experience help a mother find confidence and security throughout pregnancy, birth and post-partum. While we can point to specific success stories, we appreciate the need to have a comprehensive understanding of the roles of doulas and their value in the birthing process. This understanding should coincide with a study of doula reimbursement programs implemented in other states in order to improve access to doula services. HB1067 will establish the Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group whose members will cover a wide range of expertise. This Advisory Group will investigate how to successfully incorporate doula care coverage, thereby expanding access to doula care for low-income individuals and improving maternal outcomes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kirra L Brandon  
President, Maryland Families for Safe Birth