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HB 1563: Favorable

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee

From: Jaden R. Kohn, MD, MPH
Resident Physician in Gynecology & Obstetrics
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Date: March 9, 2020

As a Resident Physician in Gynecology & Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins Medicine, I strongly support **House Bill 1563 – Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties**. In addition to my medical doctorate, I have a Master's degree in Public Health, focusing on Health Services Research and Healthcare Management. I also have extensive training in safety and quality, and I am the Gynecology & Obstetrics departmental representative for the House staff Patient Safety and Quality Council at Hopkins.

I am driven by a passion to provide high-quality care to women and their families, each of whom deserve access to healthcare that is safe, dependable, and equitable. The current legal environment jeopardizes access to that care for women throughout the state of Maryland. Nationally, an increasing number of Labor and Delivery units are closing, in part, due to non-sustainable financial structures resulting from malpractice premiums – and Labor and Delivery units in Maryland are not exempt from these threats. House Bill 1563 is a necessary and important step to ensure that the women of Maryland will continue to have access to obstetric care.

Furthermore, my colleagues share my sentiment that, as resident physicians, we have two obligations to our patients: 1) to invest ourselves in our training such that we are prepared to provide the high-quality medical care that Marylanders deserve, and 2) to give back to the women who have contributed to our education by devoting our careers to clinical excellence. Thus, it is crucial to ensure that Labor and Delivery units have the necessary support to provide high-quality education to obstetricians-in-training, while also providing exceptional care for women. Unfortunately, if the trends in our liability system continue unabated without House Bill 1563, it will become increasingly difficult to attract and to retain both obstetricians-in-training and experienced obstetricians in the state of Maryland, jeopardizing the future of healthcare for the women in our local communities.

This bill is an opportunity for change. House Bill 1563 offers a straightforward solution to the existing system – a financially-sustainable strategy to pay for the costs of a lifetime of care, while still holding hospitals accountable. Maryland families are asking for our support; their beloved children are some

of our communities' most vulnerable. House Bill 1563 is one means to create a just and equitable system that helps to secure their future.

Historically, Maryland has been a national leader in innovative payment reform; Senate Bill 879 provides our state the opportunity to continue to be a leader, by 1) addressing current malpractice concerns that jeopardize the future of hospitals and obstetricians, 2) preserving access to high-quality obstetric care for all women, and 3) creating a commitment to families that financial resources will exist to provide for their children's future.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 1563 – Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties.**