

Good afternoon, I'd like to express my opposition to SB 879. This bill takes AWAY the right of a victim to hold the offender accountable. This bill makes hospitals and their staff FREE FROM LIABILITY in the care of pregnant/laboring women. A pregnant/laboring woman is in the most vulnerable state she will ever be in her life. Labor and delivery is a time when women go inside themselves and seek comfort from those surrounding them.

The fact that hospital staff commit errors that result in the injury to babies and their mothers, NOW, WHILE they are liable, should inform everyone that taking liability AWAY will only worsen these problems.

Right now maternal and fetal mortality in Maryland are increasing in the black community only...no others have seen an increase. How many ways can you find to victimize African Americans as a group?

The single and only reputable part of this bill is the allocation of the million dollar grant to study AND address disparities in maternal and fetal outcomes across the state. Sad they're only willing to allocate a million dollars to this important issue. Why are these injuries occurring at the rates they are? That is the crux of the problem. Victim's rights should not be infringed upon because of repeated medical negligence. The medical negligence is what needs to be addressed.

Taking liability away from the body that is being paid quite well to care for women in a vulnerable state is not wise. Without liability, without their malpractice insurance premiums, without the knowledge that their negligence can result in a lawsuit, what is the incentive to improve on their performance? There would be no incentive direct to the care provider.

Many women find contentious situations as it is when laboring in hospitals. This legislation will not improve upon that. This legislation also succeeds in stripping victims' parents of their right to pursue medical treatments they deem fit for their child following the injuries they sustain. The parents of the victim would have to beg a board, which would have no concept of what it is to raise their now injured child. This board consisting heavily (57%) of medical professionals would have a STRONG medical bias toward any alternative treatments parents may seek to create comfort or improvement for their injured child. Therefore I ask that you not support SB 879. Thank you. Deirdre Elvis-Peterson 4123 Bedford Road Pikesville District 43B

Deirdre Elvis-Peterson

Primerica Independent Representative

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