



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

March 9, 2020

Delegate Bonnie L. Cullison

Health and Government Operations Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

E. ALBERT REECE, MD, PhD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

655 West Baltimore Street, 14-029
Baltimore, MD 21201-1509
410 706 7410 | 410 706 0235 FAX
deanmed@som.umaryland.edu

www.medschool.umaryland.edu

Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust
House Bill 1563
Position: Support

Dear Delegate Cullison:

Good afternoon, my name is Dr. E. Albert Reece, and I am the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland Baltimore, the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and Dean of the School of Medicine. I am also an obstetrician-gynecologist, with specialty training in high-risk obstetrics. I also serve as the 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 System of Maryland.

I have committed my career to caring for patients and educating the next generation of physicians in Maryland and the nation. I write today in strong support of HB 1563.

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.

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 determine the precise fetal condition, and that intervention can avoid injury 100 percent 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



DENTISTRY • LAW • MEDICINE • NURSING • PHARMACY • SOCIAL WORK • GRADUATE STUDIES

Davidge Hall is the historical symbol of the **University of Maryland School of Medicine** - America's oldest public medical school, founded in 1807.

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.

HB 1563 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 HB 1563.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Albert Reece".

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

*Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine*