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**HB 1148/SB 834 Health Insurance – Two-Sided Incentive Arrangements and Capitated Payments – Authorization**

**Position: Support**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of this important legislation. Capital Women's Care is the largest OB/GYN private practice in the mid-Atlantic region, with locations throughout the greater Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan Area including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington, and Wicomico counties. Capital Women's Care is proud to support this bill as it expands options for us and other physician groups to contract with health insurers through value-based contracts, which would give us additional opportunities to better treat and support our patients within the state of Maryland.

Our premier group consists of more than 200 physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and certified nurse midwives with over 55 centers primarily in Maryland. We have offered our patients obstetric, gynecologic, and specialized women's health care services for over 40 years and are as committed as we were from our inception to providing the best care possible to our patients.

Despite our best efforts, maternal health remains a significant challenge – Maryland's maternal mortality rate from 2013 to 2017 ranked 22nd among states. In response, the State has made maternal health a priority with adoption of Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy (SIHIS) goals to reduce severe maternal morbidity. As the largest OB/GYN practice in the mid-Atlantic region, we play a pivotal role in addressing maternal health in the state and advancement of these goals. Having the ability to partner with insurers in value-based arrangements will allow us to better develop innovative, outcomes-based programs that improve the quality and cost of care for our patients. This bill is needed to enable us to pursue such value-based care arrangements. Unfortunately, unlike other states and commonwealths in the nation, Maryland's law does not allow for certain value-based partnerships between providers and payers where we can better focus on value, quality, and healthcare outcomes. These restrictions in the law limit the tools that can be deployed to meaningfully improve quality and reduce costs in our healthcare system.

Capital Women's Care strongly supports this bill. These necessary changes will give providers and insurers the options to voluntarily work together on innovative initiatives that can improve the health and wellbeing of the Maryland residents we collectively serve.

**We urge a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

*Andrew Oh, MD*

Andrew Oh, MD, FACOG  
Medical Director, Capital Women's Care