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SB1059

March 14, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: SB 1059 – Maternal Health – Assessments, Referrals, and Reporting (Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1059. Among other things, the Act will increase submissions of Prenatal Risk Assessment (PRA) and Postpartum Infant and Maternal Referral (PIMR) forms, which are used to connect birthing parents and infants to needed services through care coordination provided by local health departments (LHDs). Baltimore City is aware of amendments to be introduced by the sponsor, and supports these amendments.

We are eager to support increased submission rates for the PRA and the PIMR. Since 2009, Baltimore City's B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB) initiative, led by the Baltimore City Health Department, has worked to prevent infant and maternal mortality in Baltimore City. Since BHB's founding in 2009, Baltimore City's Black-white disparity in infant mortality has decreased by 49%. BHB built out an innovative centralized intake system – the bedrock of the initiative – through which it receives referrals from hospitals after every PRA and PIMR. Through this system, BHB does outreach and provides short-term care coordination, connecting patients to needed resources and services. **Our data show that pregnant people who receive this care coordination have infants who are 2.6 times more likely to reach their first birthdays.**

Baltimore City is committed to increasing PRA and PIMR submission and to providing timely, high quality follow-up care. BHB has conducted extensive outreach to obstetric providers and birthing hospitals, resulting in 80% PRA completion in Baltimore City (compared to a 30% statewide average) and a 45% increase in PIMRs. In addition, BHB created an electronic PRA that is live in 70% of City obstetric provider offices and collaborated with Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties to pilot it in those counties, as well. |

Commented [M(1)]: We didnt get to 70% in those counties right?

PRAs and PIMRs are keys that unlock essential care coordination services for pregnant and postpartum people. Thus, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 1059.