



MMCOA
Board of Directors

House Bill 1051 - Maternal Health – Assessments, Referrals, and Reporting (Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024)

Support with Amendments

House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 6, 2024

The Maryland Managed Care Organization Association (MMCOA), which is comprised of all nine MCOs that serve Medicaid, is pleased to support, with amendments, House Bill 1051 - Maternal Health – Assessments, Referrals, and Reporting (Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024).

House Bill 1051 would expand upon the work being done by the Maryland Department of Health, local health departments, health systems, clinicians, MCOs and advocates to improve maternal health outcomes. The bill would increase resources for new birthing parents and increase collaboration in data sharing and reporting. The sponsors of this legislation have led a collaborative stakeholder engagement process and the bill before the committee today represents that collaboration.

Maryland's MCOs play a vital role in the care coordination and financing of births in the state with nearly forty percent of births in Maryland financed by Medicaid. Care coordination, clinical support to new moms, onsite intervention, transportation services, and home health services are among the various services MCOs provide to birthing parents. House Bill 1051 would enhance care coordination by increasing data sharing and reporting, increasing the likelihood of successful interventions that promote healthy outcomes. Amendments to the bill include a stakeholder workgroup on data sharing. Ideally, the workgroup would establish that all risk assessments be housed in a centralized database accessible by relevant healthcare providers and MCOs to improve outcomes and continuity of care in Maryland.

Maryland has made significant investments to improve maternal health outcomes. House Bill 1051 provides additional tools to build and expand current efforts towards eliminating disparities. MMCOA urges a favorable report on the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation.

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Please contact Joe Winn, Executive Director of MMCOA, with any questions regarding this testimony at jwinn@marylandmco.org.