

Tameka D. Barber

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Re: House Bill 1051, Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024

March 4, 2024

Health and Government Operations Committee

Room 241 House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

For the record, my name is Tameka D. Barber, and I am a Maryland resident residing in Owings Mills, MD. I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 1051.

In 2009, 2010, and 2015, I gave birth to my daughters at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital. My doctor within the Capital Women's Care medical group was incredible. All three pregnancies were considered high-risk, but I have been blessed to have excellent medical care with my current doctor. Before finding my current doctor, I unfortunately experienced disrespectful and poor medical care at Civista.

I could not find a medical report card, which will now be required as a part of the bill. I simply ended up there through a Google search. I was misdiagnosed and told due to my race, my high blood pressure symptoms went unnoticed, and I was told to simply change my diet. I also walked into a walking rotation of doctors and had to re-explain my situation every week, which added more anxiety and stress to an already sensitive situation. I was not properly educated or advised on what to look for and how to handle things at home.

At the beginning of my second trimester, I was frustrated and switched to Capital Women's Care and my current doctor. At this point, she took immediate action ensuring that my care and my baby's care was a priority, and helped to successfully manage my blood pressure. She also ensured I was fully educated on pregnancy-induced hypertension and ways to manage my stress levels and blood pressure even after each pregnancy.

The medical report card for Capital Women's Care and MedStar Southern Maryland hospital was a vital part of my research and knowing that she would be there and has delivered all three of my daughters is a blessing. My care team has been amazing each time because she advocated for me.

I am comforted knowing that in your bill, the medical report care with patient input, is a requirement and not an option that can lead to saving moms and babies across the state.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to return a favorable report for House Bill 1051.

Tameka D. Barber

Community Advocate