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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Jennifer White Holland

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 6, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1051 – *Maternal Health – Assessments, Referrals, and Reporting (Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024)*

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1051.

Addressing maternal and child health has been a priority of the General Assembly for several years. However, there remains work to be done if the State is to create a framework of care, support services, and needed family resources that optimizes birth outcomes as well as maternal and child health following delivery. House Bill 1051, with the noted amendments offered by the sponsor, addresses prenatal risk assessments, postpartum infant and maternal referral, outreach and resource identification by local health departments, outcome evaluations; report cards for hospitals and birthing centers, and a commitment to continue to address maternal morbidity, and other relevant issues through the MDMOM initiative.

Delegate White Holland, the bill's primary sponsor, should be commended for convening a broad stakeholder group to work through the various issues reflected in the bill, as introduced, to reach consensus, prior to the hearing. While all stakeholders were supportive of the bill's objectives, the mechanisms and framework needed to achieve those objectives required significant dialogue amongst the stakeholders. To that end, the sponsor's amended version addresses the majority of issues raised by stakeholders. The above-named organizations support the bill's objectives, the amendments offered by the sponsor, and look forward to working with the sponsor, stakeholders, and the members of the Health and Government Operations Committee to identify any final amendments necessary to ensure passage of House Bill 1051, which effectively addresses the notable objective of enhancing maternal and child health outcomes. A favorable report, with the adoption of the consensus amendments identified by the Bill sponsor and stakeholders, is requested.