

Jan Collins B  
109 Overcrest Rd.  
Towson, MD 21286

Re: Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024 (HB1051/SB1059)

March 4, 2024

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates and State Senate,  
the Health and Government Operations Committee,

As a retired social worker having worked in the JHH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the UMMS Obstetrics Service, I strongly support this bill. The need for an assessment of emotional health and family supports should be an integral part of the health care for a pregnant woman as well as a postpartum mother.

It generally is assumed by society that having a baby is a wonderful time in a woman's life with no struggles or complications. In many cases that is so. However when it is not, the outcome for the mother and her baby and the family can be devastating.

The need for identifying a woman struggling with depression during her pregnancy or postpartum is crucial to provide the best possible health care and outcome for her, her baby, and her family.

But beyond identification is the need for community referrals and support to help a mother cope with her feelings and achieve safe emotional and parental functioning.

This bill is very important to address the needs and support to new mothers and babies.

As stated earlier, I strongly support this bill.

Sincerely, Jan Collins