

Carla S. Nelson
Odenton, Md 21113

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

March 3, 2024
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

For the record, my name is Carla S. Nelson, and I am a Maryland resident residing in Odenton, Md. I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 1051.

In 2017, I gave birth to my second daughter at the Howard County Hospital under the care of the Johns Hopkins Medical System. I was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia and received amazing care. This was not my first pre-eclampsia diagnosis. I was also diagnosed with pre-eclampsia during my first pregnancy, but I was never informed or educated on the condition.

During my second pregnancy, I took all the proper precautions to ensure a positive outcome. After leaving the hospital, I began to feel unwell. I assumed it was just aftereffects of childbirth and tried managing my symptoms at home. Each day was worse than before, but I knew I would see my doctor on day six and decided to wait it out. On day six, I woke up with an excruciating headache.

It was at this time that I saw a news article circulating on Facebook regarding the death of a woman who had just given birth and was suffering from postpartum preeclampsia. This was the first time that I heard this term and was not aware that such a condition existed. I immediately called my care team and was asked to return to the hospital immediately.

Once there, it was determined that I was also suffering from postpartum preeclampsia. My blood pressure was 205/118 and climbing. If I had not received care when I did, today may not exist for me. In your bill, one of the requirements is to place a follow-up call 24 hours after discharge.

If this bill existed back then, I have no doubt that my care team would have recognized my condition much earlier. A simple phone call within 12 hours will have an immediate effect on maternal health outcomes within this state.

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

Carla S. Nelson

Community Advocate

Wanda Danney-McLaurin
Baltimore, MD 21206

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 Wanda Danney-McLaurin, and I am a Maryland resident residing in Baltimore, Md. I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 1051.

I have a friend who will testify before the committee to provide her personal story. While I do not have a personal story, I have been deeply impacted by her story and the story of countless other black women in my community.

My friend did not even know that she had been diagnosed with pre-eclampsia during her first pregnancy. She found out during a routine well woman visit after moving to Maryland, during an appointment with her knew OBGYN. Now knowing and understanding pre-eclampsia, she took all the proper precautions to ensure a positive outcome during her second pregnancy. Despite best intentions, she still suffered postpartum pre-eclampsia but did not know it. After leaving the hospital, she began to feel unwell. She assumed it was just the aftereffects of childbirth and tried managing her symptoms at home, to no avail.

Thankfully, she saw an article circulating on Facebook regarding the death of a woman who had just given birth and was suffering from postpartum preeclampsia. This was the first time that she had ever heard the term and was not aware that such a condition existed. She was able to recognize the signs and similarities and immediately seek help from her care team. She was asked to return to the hospital.

Once there, it was determined that she was also suffering from postpartum preeclampsia. Her blood pressure was 205/118 and climbing. If she had not received care when she did, my friend may be not be alive today. In your bill, one of the requirements is to place a follow-up call 24 hours after discharge.

If this bill existed back then, I am sure the physician would have recognized her condition much sooner. A simple phone call within 12 hours of discharge will have an immediate effect on maternal health outcomes within this state.

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

Wanda Danney-McLaurin
Community Advocate

Delegate Julian E. Jones, Jr.

I'm supporting the HB 1051, Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024. It is imperative that every woman have maternal health care.

Too often many women are short changed maternal health needs due to their economic status. Medical insurance provisions are inappropriate to diagnose risks.

Prenatal, postnatal and education is important to all mothers regardless of status. Please favorably vote for HB 1051. Help pass this legislation.

It is important to our Baltimore County mothers and communities.

Gratefully,

Wanda R. Brown
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