



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 1251 - Health Care Facilities and Medical Professional Liability Insurers –
Obstetric Services Policies (Doula and Birth Policy Transparency Act)**

Position: *Support*

March 25, 2025

Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 1251.

HB 1251 requires hospitals to adopt policies regarding the presence of doulas in addition to guests during birth, informed consent for significant medical interventions, and receiving patients (and their medical records) from licensed direct-entry midwives when transfers are needed from a home birth setting. The Maryland Department Health is required to compile the hospital policies and make them available upon request, so that doulas, midwives, and birthing parents can be informed of these policies as they plan for birth.

Hospitals seek to provide birthing parents with high quality care in a safe, supportive environment. To that end, policies are already in place around who may be in the delivery room, informed consent for medical interventions, and coordination with the patients' care team, while ensuring that there is no interference with or obstruction of medical care. As amended, the bill is no longer overly prescriptive or duplicative and enables hospitals to adopt policies and integrative approaches to care that are reasonable and effective.

We appreciate the sponsor and other stakeholders for working closely with us over the last several weeks to discuss the concerns with the bill and for their receptiveness to our suggested amendments. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 1251.

For more information, please contact:

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