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The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Government Operations
Committee

Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

Support Testimony for HB1538 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Maternal Health
Monitoring Pilot Program

Hearing Date: March 13, 2025

Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Wambui, and I am a proud Immigrant, Parent, Community advocate and resident of Legislative District 8 in Maryland. I appreciate the opportunity to testify to and support strong support for HB1538, the Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program. This bill is a crucial step toward improving maternal health outcomes and ensuring that all Maryland mothers receive the care they need and deserve.

HB1538 addresses a critical issue in our healthcare system by implementing a Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program within the Maryland Department of Health. This initiative is designed to provide remote patient monitoring for pregnant and postpartum recipients of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program who are at increased risk due to conditions such as maternal hypertension and maternal diabetes. These conditions, if left unmanaged, can lead to severe complications, including preeclampsia, premature birth, and even maternal mortality.

The provisions of this bill are particularly commendable because they utilize technology to bridge gaps in healthcare access. By selecting a managed care organization (MCO) and partnering with a technology vendor, the program will ensure that high-risk mothers receive real-time monitoring, timely interventions, and ongoing support without the barriers of frequent in-person visits. This approach not only enhances patient outcomes but also reduces the strain on emergency and hospital services.

The need for improved maternal health care in Maryland is urgent. According to national and state health data, maternal mortality rates are disproportionately high among minority and low-income communities. By passing HB1538, Maryland can lead the way in addressing these disparities through innovative and effective healthcare solutions.

I urge this committee to support HB1538 and take this essential step toward protecting the health of mothers and infants across our state. Investing in maternal health today ensures stronger families and healthier communities for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Wambui