

Below is my written testimony on **opposing HB1563/SB 879- Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust**. Thank you for supporting parental rights!

I would like to share my thoughts on this bill as a citizen of the state. I have also seen the effects where a separate fund obviates the entity for any liability and encourages a sort of recklessness. In addition requirements for receipt of funds would be based on availability of funds and not necessarily on mistake of provider. As we have seen with the Vaccine Injury Fund it takes about 10 years (on average) of litigation. The requirements for the Vaccine Injury fund have become more and more narrow and not necessarily based on the injury but on a sort of risk management. Pharmaceutical companies are not taking the types of precautions with vaccines as compared with other drugs that have litigation risk associated with it.

For this reason I think the Infant Care Trust will remove hospital/doctor liability as well as distance the payout with the type of infraction. The trust would create a board that is very removed from the infraction and will make decision based on an criteria can be dwarfed based on being out of touch with the hospital environment or the real sufferings of the injured families.

If the goal is to limit payouts, I believe Maryland already has a cap of \$200 million and what is available from the insurance. "Other research has found that lawsuits also do not lead to doctors leaving the profession in large numbers. One study found 90% of doctors with five or more medical malpractice claims against them continued to practice medicine." Baltimore Sun Jun 4, 2019 Baltimore verdict on Malpractice.

**I think this bill will essentially reduce accountability for the hospitals at the expense of every day citizens.**

I would suggest working on legislature that assure more equitable payouts but does not distance the providers from the injury. I think it is imperative we hold these hospitals/doctors accountable in a way that is fair to both parties. I would respectfully urge the committees to consider removing this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Colesville, MD  
Azara Turaki