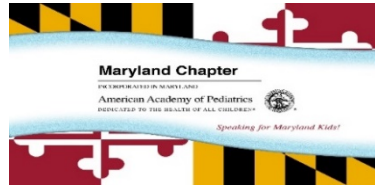




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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: March 16, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 286 – *Public Health – Maternal Mortality Review Program – Stakeholders*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 286.

House Bill 286 requires that, to the extent practicable, the stakeholders convened as part of the Maternal Mortality Review Program must reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of women most impacted by maternal deaths in the State.

In 2018, legislation was enacted that required the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to convene, at least twice a year, a meeting of stakeholders for the Maternal Mortality Review Program. The stakeholders are to include representatives of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; the Maryland Patient Safety Center; the Maryland Healthy Start Program; women's health advocacy organizations; community organizations engaged in maternal health and family support issues; families that have experienced a maternal death; local health departments; and health care providers that provide maternal health services. The stakeholders are to review the findings and recommendations of the Maternal Mortality Review Program's annual report; examine issues resulting in disparities in maternal deaths; review the status of implementation of previous recommendations; and identify new recommendations with a focus on initiatives to address issues resulting in disparities in maternal deaths.

The Maternal Morality Review Program's annual report has consistently found racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality statistics. It is for this reason that the legislation that mandated the stakeholder meetings was enacted. House Bill 286 provides added direction to MDH when it convenes its stakeholder meetings to include stakeholders that reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of women most impacted by maternal deaths in the State. Passage of this legislation strengthens the original intent of ensuring stakeholder engagement. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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