



March 5, 2021

Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
James Senate Office Building, Room 314  
11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Carozza,

I would like to voice support for senate bill 891 Public Health – Maternal and Child Mortality – Perinatal Hospice Services.

Coastal Hospice is a member of the regional Pediatric Alliance and serves terminally ill infants and children in Somerset, Dorchester, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. We have often provided perinatal support to parents when their child was expected to be born with a serious life limiting condition. Social Work and Chaplaincy are involved, and Nursing begins coordination early on to make a multidisciplinary plan with the obstetric care team. Our bereavement staff follow for 2 years after the death of the infant.

We applaud efforts to educate parents about available supports and we believe that bill 891 will have a positive impact on connecting parents to perinatal supports they need, and to hospice services for the infant for however many hours, days or months the family may have. This is such an emotionally charged time for parents and these are clinically complicated births, the obstetric care team needs to include the hospice that is prepared to support, coordinate, and participate in the process.

I do want to remind lawmakers that perinatal support is a free service done under charity care for which there is no reimbursement, but many hospices do gladly. We are reimbursed only for hospice care (defined by licensure) to the child once born.

Thank you for sponsoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alane Capen", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Alane Capen,  
President  
Coastal Hospice and  
Coastal Palliative Care