



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

June 8, 2020

Robert R. Neall
Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2399

Dear Secretary Neall,

In March of this year we sent you a letter asking the Department of Health to convene an interim study group to explore expanding access to doula care through Medicaid and other State regulated insurance and on establishing a voluntary doula certification program. In response to a request from Webster Ye, based on the current public health crisis brought on by Covid-19, we agree it is the best use of the department's time and resources to delay focusing on this issue until the 2021 interim.

To ensure these questions continue to receive appropriate attention as soon as possible, we respectfully ask you to contact the stakeholders that would have been included in the study group, including the bill's sponsors, to encourage the parties to meet without the department's leadership to resolve as many issues as possible this interim. Any questions that remain can serve as the basis for the department's study in 2021. For reference, we have included again a copy of the proposed legislation and our March 2020 letter requesting an interim study.

It would be helpful to receive a letter from your office confirming the intention to do the study outlined in our March 2020 letter with the updated parameters discussed above and with recommendations to be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or

before December 1, 2021. We respectfully request this confirmation by Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

Thank you for your assistance on this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Rowe, counsel for the House Health and Government Operations Committee at 410-946-5350.

Sincerely,



Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee



Shane E. Pendergrass, Chairman
House Health and Government
Operations Committee

Cc: Senator Clarence K. Lam
Senator Jill P. Carter
Senator Brian J. Feldman
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Nathan McCurdy, counsel to the Senate Finance Committee