



Mary Ann Sorra, M.D., FACOG

March 7, 2021

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a board certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist born, raised and educated in Maryland, and practicing in the Baltimore area since 2001. I am writing to request a favorable report on Senate Bill 891 which advocates for perinatal hospice services.

One of the hardest parts of my job is to tell a pregnant woman that her unborn baby is likely to die in utero or soon after birth because of a grave illness. It's the most dreaded news a parent can receive. But these parents are amazing. With the support of perinatal hospice they learn to pour a lifetime of love into months, cherish every day that their baby lives, yet still prepare themselves for inevitable, devastating loss.

As an obstetrician, I provide the medical care to keep my patients physically healthy during the pregnancy and birth. Perinatal hospice provides the emotional, psychological and spiritual care. I have managed patients before and after perinatal hospice was available, and I cannot overstate the value of their services.

You might imagine that the days these babies are born are simply dreaded days of despair and mourning. But they are not. Because of perinatal hospice, the day of delivery is still filled with the joy of welcoming a new baby into the world who is unconditionally loved by his parents, no matter how brief the life may last.

All Marylanders and expectant parents should know that perinatal hospice is available to help through the difficult journey of perinatal loss.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Sorra, M.D., FACOG
1001 Pine Heights Ave. Ste. 203
Baltimore, MD 21229