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February 16, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Senate Bill 591- Support**

Dear Chairman Kelley:

I submit this testimony in full support of **Senate Bill 591- Maryland Health Care Commission- Patient Safety Center- Designation Fund**. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of this bill.

I am a Board-certified pediatrician, lifelong Maryland resident, and the CEO of Your GPS Doc, LLC, an innovative company that helps patients and family caregivers understand and navigate the healthcare system. I also provide health equity consulting services and have worked closely with Dr. Blair Eig and his leadership team at the Maryland Patient Safety Center over the last year on several very impactful programs designed to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence among communities and healthcare workers of color. Our current project is a maternal health equity toolkit designed to increase awareness of severe maternal morbidity and implicit bias among non-obstetric providers throughout the state of Maryland in an effort to decrease the disparity gap in maternal health outcomes for Black women.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center has a strong reputation in our state for developing programs to improve infection control in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, reduce falls in long-term care facilities, improve the care of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome, decrease first-time Cesarean sections, and is now doing very important work to address health equity. The funding of this bill will allow the Center to expand their reach and impact and continue to spearhead programs to keep Marylanders safe in healthcare settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*Nicole T. Rochester*

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