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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 22, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 503 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Doula Services – Coverage*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 503.

Senate Bill 503 requires coverage of doula services under the Medicaid program subject to certain specific regulatory parameters. MedChi and MDACOG fully support the coverage of Doula services by Medicaid, as studies have demonstrated that having a doula present at births can in many circumstances improve outcomes. Doulas can be an important component of the birth team that all women should be able to access. During the 2021 interim, a Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group (DTAAG) was convened to develop a regulatory framework for the provision of Doula services under Medicaid.

As a result of that interim work, a comprehensive regulatory framework that reflected the consensus of the DTAAG was proposed in the Maryland Register in December 2021. It is our understanding that if the regulations are adopted Medicaid will commence implementation in early 2022. Senate Bill 503 mirrors the regulatory structure that was proposed in the regulations. MedChi and MDACOG strongly support enhancing access to and utilization of doula services and given that Senate Bill 503 reflects the consensus of the stakeholders, a favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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