



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support with Amendments- Senate Bill 644- Maternal Mortality Review Program - Local Teams - Access to Information and Records

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 644.

Senate Bill 644 alters the process for obtaining access to medical records requested by a local Maternal Mortality Review Program team. While MHA supports the spirit of the bill and the focus on reviewing data pertaining to prenatal care provided to the patient, the term "immediate" is not defined. **We respectfully request an amendment to strike the word "immediate" and ask the local care teams to utilize the same timeline the state Maternal Mortality Review Program follows when requesting records from providers.** This change would ensure a standard expectation for complying with these record requests.

We are willing to work with the sponsor and stakeholders to further discuss this process. We are, however, concerned with the legislation moving forward without a definition or timeframe associated with the term "immediate."

For these reasons, we ask for a *favorable* report on SB 644 with this amendment.

For more information, please contact:

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