



Senator Waldenstricher
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to give notice about providing written testimony in regards to SB0411 and to request the office consider an amendment to align with model evidence-based policy.

We are so grateful to Sen. Waldstreicher for recognizing that maternal mental health conditions are a serious matter and need to be addressed.

We are requesting your office consider an amendment to align with the model state legislation developed by the Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health.¹

SB0411, currently addresses insurers covering screenings. However insurers are already covering routine and follow-up screenings. Further, screenings must be covered at no cost-share under the Affordable Care Act's provision addressing preventive care.

The problem is not with insurance covering screenings, it is that OB/Gyns, and other providers, are not routinely screening. This happens for a variety of reasons, with the unfortunate and sometimes deadly outcome that pregnant and new moms are falling through the cracks.

We would like to request SB0411 be amended to align with the Model Legislation. Highlights include: requiring that licensed health care practitioners, who provide prenatal and postpartum obstetric or primary care, to screen those who are pregnant or within two years postpartum for maternal mental health conditions according to clinical guidelines published by clinical bodies, such as the American College of obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Additionally, health insurers, and managed care plans, should create case management programs to support screening providers in managing patient care, including finding patients qualified in-network mental health care providers. They should also be required to inform their contracted providers of the screening requirements and guidelines, monitor screening rates by these providers, and implement quality improvement plans to address provider barriers.

Thank you for your consideration and we welcome additional conversation on these evidence-based amendments.

Warmly,

Mikah Goldman Berg

mberg@postpartum.net

Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health, MD Policy Fellow 2025

Postpartum Support International, PSI Chapters Program Assistant Director

Crystal McAuley

crystal.mcauley@policycentermmh.org

Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health

[1https://policycentermmh.org/model-mmh-screening-um-and-cm-legislation/](https://policycentermmh.org/model-mmh-screening-um-and-cm-legislation/)