

Senate Finance Committee

February 12, 2025

Senate Bill 411 – *Health Insurance – Postpartum Depression Screening – Required Coverage and Authorized Cost Sharing*

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 411. Senate Bill 411 requires insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for postpartum depression screenings. The bill also allows these entities to impose copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles on the coverage, but these costs cannot exceed those for similar coverages.

Both the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) emphasize the importance of screening for postpartum depression. Both organizations highlight the critical role of screening in identifying and addressing postpartum depression to improve maternal health outcomes.

- The AMA supports the use of simple, practical questionnaires to screen for depression in primary care settings, including for pregnant and postpartum individuals. They recommend that all adults, including those who are pregnant or postpartum, be screened for depression to ensure timely identification and treatment.
- ACOG recommends that everyone receiving well-woman, prepregnancy, prenatal, and postpartum care be screened for depression and anxiety using standardized, validated instruments. They advise that screening should occur at the initial prenatal visit, later in pregnancy, and at postpartum visits. ACOG also emphasizes the need for systems to ensure timely access to assessment, diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up.¹

These screenings help identify women experiencing significant depressive symptoms and ensure they receive appropriate evaluation and treatment. We urge the General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 411 to ensure that all Marylanders have access to essential postpartum depression screenings and the necessary support for maternal mental health.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Danna L. Kauffman
J. Steven Wise
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

¹ [Patient Screening | ACOG](#)