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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2025

To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for **SB518: Health Insurance - Screening for Ovarian Cancer - Required Coverage and Prohibited Cost Sharing**. This critical legislation is an essential step toward ensuring that Maryland women have access to life-saving, evidence-based ovarian cancer screenings without financial barriers.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women and is often referred to as the "silent killer" because it is frequently diagnosed at an advanced stage. The five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer detected in its early stages is over **90%**, yet nearly **80% of cases are diagnosed in later stages** due to a lack of routine screening and early detection. Many women—especially those from underserved communities—face financial obstacles in obtaining preventive screenings such as MRI and CT scans, which could detect ovarian cancer earlier and significantly improve survival rates.

SB518 removes financial barriers by requiring insurance providers to cover preventive screenings for ovarian cancer in individuals aged 45 and older, without imposing burdensome copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles. Ensuring that women have access to these screenings will not only save lives but also reduce long-term healthcare costs associated with late-stage cancer treatment.

As the Maryland Women's Caucus, we are deeply committed to advancing policies that protect and support women's health. We know that **early detection saves lives**, and no woman should have to delay or forgo critical screenings due to financial concerns. This legislation prioritizes preventive care, promotes health equity, and strengthens Maryland's commitment to improving health outcomes for women across the state.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to issue a **favorable report** for SB518. By passing this legislation, Maryland will take a crucial step toward reducing cancer-related mortality and ensuring that all women—regardless of income or background—have access to the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to improving the health and well-being of Marylanders.