

# Maryland Families for safe birth

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
House Health Committee  
House Office Building, Room 240  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT – HOUSE BILL 1376 – MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, MARYLAND CHILDREN’S HEALTH PROGRAM, AND HEALTH INSURANCE – TRANSFERS TO SPECIAL PEDIATRIC HOSPITALS – REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

Maryland Families for Safe Birth (MFSB) is a grassroots organization comprised of moms and families dedicated to ensuring access to all birth options and informed decision-making throughout the birth process. On behalf of MFSB members and all Maryland families, we write in support of House Bill 1376, which provides clear prior authorization timelines for families in need of special pediatric care. This certainty is vital to families who have experienced firsthand the fear, uncertainty, and delays that occur when a child needs to be transferred to a special pediatric hospital.

Families with medically complex infants, including NICU graduates, often face administration delays when transferring to specialized pediatric facilities. Delays in prior authorization can unnecessarily extend hospital stays, including emotional and financial stress on families already facing challenges. Families should not bear the burden of navigating insurance barriers during critical medical transitions.

Timely transfer decisions, like those contemplated by House Bill 1376, improve continuity of care and reduce disruption in a child’s treatment plan. Retrospective review protections ensure families are not penalized when providers advocate for medically necessary care.

For all these reasons, MFSB supports House Bill 1375. We take this opportunity to thank Delegate Rosenberg for championing this legislation and the committee for its thoughtful consideration of these highly specialized medical situations. We respectfully urge a favorable report.