



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 891 – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 891 – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions. SB 891 requires coverage for perinatal mental health screenings, directs the Department to establish a screening program, and mandates continuing education on perinatal mental health conditions for certain health care providers.

The Department supports the bill’s goal of increasing access to perinatal mental health screening for pregnant and postpartum people through improved insurance coverage and provider education. Standing referrals created by this bill will make it easier for individuals with possible perinatal mental health conditions to obtain appropriate, timely, and cost-efficient care. Because substance use disorder and overdose have been the leading causes of pregnancy-associated death in Maryland for the past eight years, the bill’s inclusion of substance use within the definition of perinatal mental health - and the requirement for associated screening - is critical.<sup>1</sup>

Perinatal mental health screenings are already reimbursed by the Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Program and maternal depression screening is also included as part of EPSDT services. Further access to robust, high-quality perinatal mental health screening and treatment services is fundamental to a health care system that ensures that every birth is safe and to promote wellbeing for all birthing people.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at [meghan.lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:meghan.lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.  
Secretary of Health

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Department of Health. Maryland Maternal Mortality Review. 2022.  
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/mch/Documents/MMR/2022%20MMR%20Report.pdf>