

**Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.  
Senate Finance Committee**

**Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions  
(SB 891)**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Katie Maniscarco, LCSW-C, PMH-C, and I write this letter in strong **support** of SB 891, Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions. This bill would expand perinatal mental health screenings and require patient and provider training related to perinatal mental health. In short, this bill will save lives.

My decision to work as a perinatal mental health specialist was based off my personal experiences with postpartum depression and subsequent work with pregnant and postpartum clients. I discovered that far too many women faced similar barriers to adequate and informed care as I did, and that they felt isolated and forced to suffer in silence. Such suffering has unfavorable outcomes for not only the mother, but also the baby. These outcomes are backed by the latest research.

Moms, families, and communities in Maryland would greatly benefit from the passage of this bill. As such, I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

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