



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 19, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 485 – Public Health - Women's Health Care Data - Report– 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) 485 – Public Health - Women's Health Care Data - Report. SB 485 requires the Department to develop and implement a standard system to collect and compile annual data on the costs of prenatal care, birth, postpartum care, pregnancy care, abortion services, and menopausal care in the State; establishes limitations on the data and information that may be collected or reported under the Act; and requires the Department to submit an annual comprehensive report of the collected data to the General Assembly on or before December 1.

SB 485 would cost the Department \$761,368 in FY 27, and it would have a significant operational impact on the Department. In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2027 and beyond, the Department urges caution in passing legislation that significantly increases expenditures without commensurate decreases in other areas. In light of the current fiscal crisis, the State government must be disciplined and strategic in its funding decisions to protect essential services. Any legislation that increases spending should include specific, identified, and sustainable funding offsets. Given the forecasted out-year deficits as well as significant uncertainty regarding the federal budget and policy changes, it would be challenging for the State to manage this increase in spending. This challenge is compounded by major, unforeseen changes in federal policy and other ongoing budgetary pressures.

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.

Sincerely,

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