

**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 Alexandra McNulty, 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.

Perinatal mental health is a significant and lack of screening and effective care places a significant burden on children, mothers, families, and the system as a whole. Screening for perinatal mental health only matters as much as its accessibility and coverage. A system that places responsibility on mothers in a time of physical, emotional, and existential crisis to seek care and proper treatment on their own is not a system working effectively. This bill would eliminate the significant care gap in perinatal mental health and highlight what parents, women, and mental health care workers have known all long - that perinatal mental health matters and should be accessible to every single parent.

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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