



## Chamber of Mothers

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

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** 02/17/2025

**Committee:** Finance

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Maryland Chapter of Chamber of Mothers, representing mothers and families across the state, **strongly supports 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.

Pregnancy and childbirth is an exciting but turbulent time in a mother's life, physically, mentally, and financially. Often, it is not clear to the pregnant or postpartum mother, as well as the people supporting her, what emotions are a normal, temporary part of the childbirth process, and what constitutes a mental health issue. Screenings are a quick, easy, and cost-effective way to identify mental health issues so that treatments can be recommended early and new parents can get the support that they need.

When most mothers in Maryland show up to their six-week postpartum checkup they are handed a screening questionnaire and either warned that insurance will not cover it if they fill it out, or they are not warned and get a surprise bill later. SB 891 would ensure that all mothers have the opportunity to be screened for perinatal mental health conditions, regardless of their ability to pay. This is the type of healthcare and support Maryland moms need to thrive in motherhood.

This bill is a step in the right direction towards addressing perinatal mental health conditions that impact Maryland moms. As such, **we ask for a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

Maryland Chapter of Chamber of Mothers  
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