



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

**2026 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 891 - Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Information

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is respectfully submitting this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 891. SB 891 would establish training, screening, referral, and patient education requirements for healthcare practitioners working in perinatal mental health. In addition, SB 891 mandates that the Board require an applicant who works in perinatal mental health to provide satisfactory documentation of the completion of at least 2 credits of continuing education in perinatal mental health.

The Board recognizes the importance of establishing a high standard of care for perinatal mental health in Maryland and supports the bill's intent to improve the care provided. The Board appreciates and thanks Senator Gile for her commitment to this vital initiative.

Although there were initial concerns about unintended operational barriers, the Board has participated in a series of conversations with the sponsors and other stakeholders to address them. The Board is aware of amendments that would (1) alter the continuing education requirement to incentivize perinatal mental health continuing education, rather than require it, and (2) remove the requirements for the Department of Health to consult with the Board to develop a perinatal mental health screening program and training programs.

The Board appreciates the Senator's willingness to collaborate on SB 891 and attention to the Board's concerns. With the amendments, SB 891 is operationally workable.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Madeline DelGreco, Manager of Policy and Legislation, at 410-764-5053.

Sincerely,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.