

Senator Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

William Makepeace Thackeray wrote in his novel Vanity Fair

“Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.”

But for all the love, care and protection that a Mother provides to their children, many silently suffer and endure the tortures of Postpartum Depression and Psychosis.

My family is one left with the wreckage left behind by the current lack protocol, treatment and urgent response that many Mothers desperately need. In December of 2023, my dear Sister-in-Law Andréa was lost to Postpartum Depression, Psychosis and ultimately Suicide.

Andréa sought treatment from her primary care physician, OB/GYN and even Emergency Room Clinicians, but the lack of urgency, response, and follow-up on the treatment she needed was a significant contributing factor in her untimely and avoidable death.

Andréa left behind a grieving Husband, an infant Son who will know her only in story, and a family looking for answers and solutions to this crisis, so no one else must endure what Andréa did.

Channeling her grief productively, my Wife, Kyra founded a Maternal Mental Health Advocacy Organization, Andréa’s Wish Foundation, joined the Board of Directors of Postpartum Support International – Maryland Chapter and is providing her own Testimony in favor of SB0891.

Kyra is a driven and determined woman; one tough Mother, literally and figuratively; our two sons, now 12 and 15 were nearly 10 and 11 pounds, respectively. Kyra lost her baby sister, and her best friend, my boys lost their loving aunt, my nephew lost his mother, and our family lost its peace.

SB0891: Health, Health Insurance and Health Occupations – Perinatal Mental Health Conditions Bill is a vital Bill to care for and protect so many others like Andréa who need expanded screening, fortified insurance coverage and increased Healthcare provider education resources. Advancements and standardization of rapid response protocols and care coordination are in dire need.

For PSI- Maryland, for grieving families, and for Andréa, consider this proposed bill with all the care, dedication, and consideration that your Mother once gave to you.

Thank you

