

DEL. DANA JONES, DISTRICT 30A
President

DEL. MICHELE GUYTON, DISTRICT 42B
1st Vice-President

DEL. JENNIFER WHITE HOLLAND, DISTRICT 10
2nd Vice-President

DEL. SARAH WOLEK, DISTRICT 16
Secretary



DEL. LINDA FOLEY, DISTRICT 15
Treasurer

DEL. KAREN R. TOLES, DISTRICT 25
Parliamentarian

DEL. JACQUELINE T. ADDISON, DISTRICT 45
At Large

DEL. KYM TAYLOR, DISTRICT 23
At Large

WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 28, 2026

To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair

Senator Antonio Hayes Vice, Chair

Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly supports SB 891 – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations – Perinatal Mental Health Conditions.

SB 891 takes a comprehensive approach to addressing perinatal mental health by expanding screening, strengthening provider education, and improving access to care. The bill requires certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to cover screenings for perinatal mental health conditions at designated intervals. It also directs the Maryland Department of Health to establish a statewide perinatal mental health screening program and requires specified healthcare professionals to complete continuing education on perinatal mental health as part of license renewal.

Perinatal mental health conditions, including postpartum depression and anxiety, affect a significant number of women during pregnancy and after childbirth. Left undiagnosed and untreated, these conditions can have serious consequences for mothers, infants, and families. Early screening is essential to identifying symptoms, connecting patients to appropriate treatment, and preventing long-term harm.

SB 891 strengthens Maryland's healthcare framework by ensuring that screening becomes a routine and covered component of maternal care. By requiring continuing education for healthcare providers, the bill also improves clinical awareness, reduces stigma, and enhances the quality of care women receive during one of the most vulnerable periods of their lives.

Maternal health disparities remain a pressing concern, particularly for Black women and other underserved communities. Expanding screening and provider training is a critical step toward closing these gaps and improving outcomes for mothers and babies across the state.

SB 891 aligns directly with the Maryland Women's Caucus mission to protect the health and well-being of women, children, and families. By prioritizing maternal mental health, Maryland affirms that perinatal care must include both physical and psychological support.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 891.