

February 12, 2026

Chair and Members of the Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: Letter of Support – Standardized Maternal Health Cost Data Collection Bill

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns (GBCPC), I am writing to express our support for the bill requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop and implement a standardized system to collect and compile annual data on the costs of prenatal care, birth, postpartum care, pregnancy care, abortion services, and menopausal care in the State.

For 45 years, GBCPC has served women and families in Baltimore City, providing pregnancy verification, limited obstetrical ultrasounds, advocacy, education, and referrals at no cost to our clients. As reflected in our most recent Form 990, we remain committed to educating and empowering women so they have the freedom to embrace life. Each year, we meet women navigating complex medical, financial, and social challenges, including barriers to insurance, substance use disorder, housing instability, and limited access to prenatal care.

One of the greatest challenges facing providers, policymakers, and community organizations alike is the lack of clear, standardized, and publicly accessible data regarding the true costs of maternal and reproductive health services across the continuum of care.

Comprehensive and transparent data collection is critical for three key reasons:

1. Identifying Gaps in Care

Without reliable cost data across prenatal, birth, postpartum, and related services, it is difficult to determine where women encounter financial barriers. Cost transparency allows us to better understand where care is unaffordable, delayed, or inaccessible, particularly for low-income and uninsured women.

2. Addressing Disparities in Maternal Health

Maryland continues to face disparities in maternal health outcomes, particularly among minority and economically disadvantaged populations. Accurate statewide cost reporting helps reveal

where inequities may be driven or compounded by financial burden. Data enables targeted interventions rather than generalized assumptions.

3. Directing Resources Where They Are Most Needed

Community-based organizations, including pregnancy centers, often serve as frontline access points for women early in pregnancy. When cost data is transparent and standardized, policymakers can more effectively allocate funding and support to regions, populations, and service types experiencing the greatest need. This ensures that limited public resources are directed strategically and equitably.

Importantly, this bill also establishes limitations on the type of data collected and reported, balancing transparency with appropriate privacy protections. Annual reporting to the General Assembly will provide lawmakers with an ongoing, evidence-based framework for evaluating maternal health access and affordability across Maryland.

From our daily experience serving women in crisis and unexpected pregnancy, we know that financial uncertainty significantly impacts medical decision-making. Women frequently express confusion about the costs of prenatal visits, delivery, postpartum recovery, and other reproductive health services. Greater transparency will empower women and families to make informed decisions and will assist providers and advocates in guiding them toward appropriate care.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation and advance a data-driven approach to strengthening maternal health in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of women and families in our state.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Ruppert

Executive Director

Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns