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**SB0169**

March 25, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Health Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 169 – Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures

**POSITION: Favorable**

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 169.

SB 169 requires hospitals to screen patients presenting at emergency departments in order to determine whether the patient has an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition. It also establishes requirements and prohibitions related to the treatment and transfer of patients who have an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition and requires hospitals to allow the termination of a pregnancy if the patient's health care practitioner determines termination is medically necessary to stabilize the patient.

Between 2016 and 2020, there were 43 pregnancy associated deaths that occurred in Baltimore City. Most of these deaths were preventable. This bill will ensure that mothers feel safe knowing that they can go to the hospital and be cared for if they experience an emergency during pregnancy. This bill will:

- Help ensure that religious beliefs or other non-medical reasons do not form the basis of a determination by the physician provider that would impede the standard of care provided to the patient, including a determination regarding pregnancy termination.
- Allow non-physician hospital staff to weigh in on what is best for the patient, without fear of reprisal. All staff – including nurses, midwives, doulas, and medical assistants – are part of ensuring the well-being of patients. This bill allows everyone within the clinical setting to use their best clinical judgment to save the life of the mother, regardless of where they sit within the healthcare system hierarchy.
- Ensure that a patient can be transferred to a hospital with the capacity to provide the full range of care. This is particularly important, as many physician providers in emergency departments have not been trained in pregnancy termination.

Passing this bill will help protect the health, well-being, and lives of mothers. As such, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 169.