



February 4, 2026

**COMMITTEE:** House Health Committee

**BILL:** HB 158 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program

**POSITION:** Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives. The Foundation is pleased to **support HB 158 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program**. This bill would establish a pilot program for pregnant Medicaid recipients that are at high risk of pregnancy complications due to maternal hypertension or maternal diabetes. The program would provide remote monitoring services to participants during their second and third trimesters and for up to three months postpartum, and establish a clinical team to review patients’ monitoring data and provide health coaching to each participant.

For the last several years, the Horizon Foundation has advocated for policies and programs that would implement a full continuum of reproductive health services in our community and in our state. We have also been working with several nonprofit organizations, funders and clinical providers to examine solutions to improve maternal and child health. Much work remains to solve the maternal health crisis we are experiencing in the United States, particularly for mothers of color. Nationally, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women.<sup>i</sup> More than 80% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.<sup>ii</sup> Here in Maryland, Black mothers are more likely than White mothers to have a preterm birth, and more than twice as likely to have their babies experience low birth weight or infant mortality.<sup>iii</sup> This pilot program would be a good first step to improving the care that pregnant women receive, and would in turn improve health outcomes.

We strongly believe everyone should have access to high quality, respectful maternity care. For this reason, the Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 158** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your consideration.

<sup>i</sup> The Network for Public Health Law, 2023.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/womens-health/features/maternal-mortality.html>

<sup>iii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation: <https://www.kff.org/interactive/womens-health-profiles/maryland/maternal-infant-health/>

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