



Chamber of Mothers

HB 1468: Hospitals - Patients in Active Labor - Safe Discharge Labor Plans

Position: Favorable

Date: 03/09/2025

Committee: Health

Chair Bagnall and members of the House Health Committee,

The Maryland Chapter of Chamber of Mothers, representing mothers and families across the state, respectfully **submits favorable testimony for HB 1468, Hospitals - Patients in Active Labor - Safe Discharge Labor Plans.**

This bill would require hospitals to provide clear, documented safe discharge plans for patients in active labor, to display patient rights clearly and conspicuously, and to train hospital staff on how to safely discharge patients in active labor. These are practical, common-sense safeguards to ensure no laboring patient leaves a hospital without a clear plan for continued care.

The urgency of this legislation is underscored by persistent racial disparities in maternal outcomes we have here in Maryland. According to the [Maryland Department of Health](#), **Maryland's overall maternal mortality rate is 21 per 100,000. For Black women, it is 30 per 100,000.** [State and national data](#) consistently show that **black women are about three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women**, even controlling for socioeconomic factors and insurance status. Requiring safe and clear discharge plans is one practical way to address these disparate outcomes. Safe, documented discharge planning helps ensure continuity of care, clarity about return-to-care protocols, and awareness of symptoms that require immediate attention.

By requiring hospitals to document safe discharge plans and ensure patients understand their rights and next steps, HB 1468 offers an important step toward addressing preventable disparities in maternal outcomes. As such, **we ask for a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

Maryland Chapter of Chamber of Mothers
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