



Maryland Section

House Health Committee

March 25, 2026

Senate Bill 348 – *Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – High-Risk Pregnancies –
Communication After Discharge*

POSITION: SUPPORT AS AMENDED

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MD ACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports as amended** Senate Bill 348.

Senate Bill 348 as amended replaces the word “call” with “contact,” allowing hospitals to use alternative methods, such as text messaging or other modalities, to reach patients following discharge. This flexibility reflects the reality of modern communication and may increase the likelihood of successful patient engagement.

The 24–48-hour follow-up period is a safeguard that should be maintained. Early post-discharge contact is particularly important for identifying complications, addressing urgent clinical concerns, and connecting patients with needed support during a highly vulnerable period. Extending this window risks delaying the identification of serious issues.

While we support the expansion of communication methods, MD ACOG emphasizes that the 24-48-hour follow-up window is a safeguard that must be maintained. Extending this window beyond 48 hours would risk delaying the identification of serious health issues and would undermine the core safety intent of the original legislation from 2024. For these reasons, MD ACOG supports the modernization of contact methods while maintaining the current statutory timeline.

For more information call:

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