



Date: March 25, 2026

House Health Committee

Senate Bill 348 – Maternal Health Act – Postpartum Outreach Requirements

Position: Favorable with Amendments as adopted by the Senate

Dear Chair, Bagnall and Committee Members,

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 348 as amended that advances a more patient-centered, compassionate, and clinically appropriate approach to postpartum care outreach. LifeBridge Health strongly supports the intent of the Maternal Health Act to ensure that birthing parents receive timely and meaningful support after discharge, particularly those at highest risk for complications. SB 348 thoughtfully refines the law to better align with patient needs and choices.

The postpartum period is not one-size-fits-all. SB 348 preserves the ability for hospitals to act quickly when clinically necessary, while avoiding rigid requirements that do not improve patient outcomes. Sinai and Carroll Hospital recognizes that early post-discharge contact within 24–48 hours can be essential for specific high-risk patients and for most patient’s discharge includes a pre-scheduled follow up appointment with the attending OB-GYN or Midwife provider.

In these situations, timely outreach often coordinated with the patient’s OB-GYN or midwife can be critical. Hospitals prioritize these patients for rapid follow-up based on clinical judgment, discharge planning, and individualized risk assessment. SB 348 does not diminish this practice; rather, it preserves flexibility so clinicians can respond as indicated by patients and when clinically indicated.

For many birthing parents, the immediate 24–48-hour window is marked by physical recovery, pain management, sleep deprivation, and newborn care. During this time, patients may miss phone calls or be unable to engage meaningfully, even when outreach occurs. When contact is delayed slightly or delivered through a preferred modality such as secure text or a patient portal, engagement and trust often improve. *We strive to respect patient choice and coordinate with patients and family the best methods in contacting them based on their preferences.* The amended bill allows for patient choice in terms of how they prefer to receive post-discharge communication. We have different options and methods that patients can choose how they want to be contacted.

For these reasons, LifeBridge Health respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 348.

Thank you for your consideration.

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