



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0169 – Hospitals – Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions – Procedures – FAVORABLE

**Bill Sponsor:** Senators Lam, Beidle, Feldman, Guzzone, and Love

**Committee:** Health

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0169 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our work is rooted in the belief that government should protect people’s lives, health, and dignity—especially in moments of crisis.

SB0169 does exactly that.

This bill ensures that when a patient presents at a hospital with an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition, they receive **timely, medically appropriate care—without delay, denial, or confusion**. It requires proper screening, prohibits inappropriate refusals of stabilizing treatment, and makes clear that pregnancy termination must be available when it is medically necessary to protect a patient’s health or life. It also establishes clear, safe standards for patient transfers so no one is put at further risk.

These protections are not theoretical. They are urgently needed.

Maryland’s own data shows that:

- More than **80% of pregnancy-related deaths in Maryland are preventable**.
- Our maternal mortality rate **rose by 36% between 2018 and 2021**.
- **Black women are nearly four times more likely to die** from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

- Severe complications like hemorrhage, sepsis, and hypertensive emergencies are increasing—conditions that demand immediate emergency care.
- Delays in emergency obstetric treatment have been identified as a major contributor to poor outcomes, especially in rural and underserved communities.

In an emergency, **hesitation costs lives**. SB0169 removes uncertainty for hospitals and clinicians, replacing it with clear, enforceable standards that prioritize patient safety and evidence-based medicine.

This bill aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It strengthens healthcare access, advances public safety, addresses racial inequities, and affirms Maryland's commitment to compassionate, timely medical care for everyone.

No one experiencing a medical emergency should be forced to wait, suffer, or be turned away because of ambiguity or fear. SB0169 ensures that doesn't happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE report on SB0169**.