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March 25 2026

SB 0169 - FAV

Hospitals – Emergency Pregnancy–Related Medical Conditions – Procedures

Dear Chair [Jheanelle K. Wilkins](#), Vice-Chair [Jessica Feldmark](#), and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (“EMTALA”) is a federal law requiring hospital emergency departments to provide “stabilizing treatment” to patients experiencing an emergency health condition. HHS issued guidance on July 11, 2023, emphasizing that even in states with abortion bans, hospitals are legally required to meet their obligations under EMTALA. Under the law, HHS can levy fines, withdraw federal funding and require remedial action by the hospital.

It is no longer clear that the HHS will continue to enforce ETMLA while a president whose voting constituency is opposed to abortion, such as Donald Trump, is president. In an ectopic pregnancy, a fertilized egg implants in a location other than inside the uterus, leaving the pregnancy with no chance of survival. If not treated promptly, an ectopic pregnancy can be deadly for the pregnant patient. Kelsie Norris-De La Cruz and Kyleigh Thurman nearly died and suffered permanent damage to their reproductive organs after they were refused emergency treatment for their ectopic pregnancies in Texas.

Therefore this bill to enacts provisions similar to ETMLA is now needed to help to assure Maryland retains this important legal protection for pregnant women in Maryland.

Respectfully,
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