

DENI TAVERAS
Legislative District 47B
Prince George's County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Health Committee
The House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 1106, which establishes the Maryland Commission on Women's Health Advancement. This legislation represents an important step toward strengthening Maryland's approach to women's health by creating a structured, inclusive, and evidence-based process to evaluate the feasibility of a state of Maryland women's hospital and a statewide clinical network dedicated to advancing women's health.

Women across Maryland continue to face significant disparities in access to care, health outcomes, and availability of specialized services. These challenges are particularly acute in underserved communities and regions with limited health infrastructure. Senate Bill 0019 responds to these realities by creating a multidisciplinary commission charged with examining existing gaps in women's health care, assessing the financial and structural feasibility of a State women's hospital, and exploring innovative models for expanding access to comprehensive services across the state.

The bill's emphasis on broad stakeholder representation is especially important. By including legislators, health care professionals, patient advocates, experts in health disparities, academic institutions, insurers, and data and technology specialists, the commission is designed to reflect the diversity of Maryland's population and health system. This inclusive structure will ensure that the commission's findings and recommendations are informed by lived experience, clinical expertise, and equity-centered analysis.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 0019. Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to share this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Deni Taveras

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