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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 14, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 356 – *Health – Maternal Mortality Review Program – Reporting Requirement*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 356.

Senate Bill 356 requires the Maternal Mortality Review Program (MMRP) to include a specified section on racial disparities in its annual report. The section must include a comparison of the maternal mortality rates (MMRs) of non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic White women and data on changes in MMRs by race and ethnicity. The program's 2018 annual report includes a section on racial disparity and the above-named organizations believe it's appropriate and warranted to assure that this data is included in the program's annual report going forward.

Maryland's MMRP was established in 2000. Maternal mortality reviews are conducted by a committee of clinical experts from across the State. As reflected in their annual report, the work of the MMR Committee provides policymakers and affected stakeholders with the critical clinical review framework and data analysis necessary to identify strategies to address factors contributing to maternal deaths.

In 2018, legislation was enacted that requires the Department of Health to establish a Maternal Mortality Stakeholder Group. The stakeholder group will utilize the data and outcomes reflected in the MMR annual report and any other relevant information to examine issues resulting in disparities in maternal deaths, review the status of implementation of previous recommendations made by the MMR Committee, and identify new recommendations with a focus on initiatives to address disparities in maternal deaths. Responses and recommendations from the stakeholders will be included in the subsequent annual report of the Program. The passage of Senate Bill 356 will ensure that the stakeholder group has the data necessary to effectively accomplish its objectives. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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