



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **RE: Senate Bill (SB) 447 – Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for SB 447 – Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures. SB 447 requires a hospital to conduct screening on an individual presenting at an emergency department of the hospital to determine whether the individual has an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition, establishes requirements and prohibitions related to the treatment and transfer of an individual who has such a condition, and prohibits a hospital from taking adverse action against a provider for not transferring a patient who is not stabilized.

This bill mirrors the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), which requires hospitals with emergency departments to provide a medical screening examination to any individual who comes to the emergency department and requests such an examination, and prohibits hospitals with emergency departments from refusing to examine or treat individuals with an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition<sup>1</sup>. EMTALA applies to hospitals that participate in Medicare, whereas this bill would apply to all hospitals in Maryland, regardless of Medicare participation. The Department supports mandating hospitals to screen for, treat, and stabilize emergency pregnancy-related medical conditions, including through the provision of or referral for pregnancy termination services when needed. SB 447 would codify important standards of emergency care in Maryland, which will save lives, even if there are changes at the federal level to EMTALA.

The amendments to this bill clarify that "emergency medical condition" is specifically related to pregnancy, and clarifies that any federal investigation and fine supersede a state-level investigation and fine.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/certificationandcompliance/downloads/emtala.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary