



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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The Honorable Brian BeGole, Chair
House Government Operations Committee
Michigan Senate, PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Position Letter: Michigan S.B. 30: Biased and Unjust Care Reporting Act

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of and strongly supports Senate Bill 30, which represents an essential step toward improving maternal health outcomes across the state by confronting a persistent and deeply rooted issue—perinatal mistreatment and racial disparities within maternal care.

By requiring the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to implement a validated reporting tool for patients to document incidents of obstetric violence and mistreatment, the bill amplifies patient voice in a tangible and data-driven way. It provides a mechanism for identifying systemic patterns of inequity and upholding the principles of informed consent, dignity, and respectful treatment—standards that every patient deserves.

To ensure that the law fully achieves its transformative goals, SPAN recommends a few specific amendments that would strengthen both the implementation process and protection measures:

1. **Accessibility and Inclusion:** The reporting tool should be available in multiple languages and include simplified, low-literacy versions to guarantee equitable access for non-English speakers and individuals with limited health literacy.
2. **Robust Privacy Protections:** The reporting system must safeguard patient anonymity through comprehensive data privacy protocols and clear restrictions on data sharing, particularly with employers or insurers.
3. **Non-Retaliation Clauses:** Patients and healthcare workers who report perinatal mistreatment should be explicitly protected from retaliation. Such safeguards will encourage honest participation and ensure that reporting leads to constructive change rather than fear of reprisal.
4. **Regular Public Reporting:** MDHHS should publish annual de-identified summaries of the collected data, broken down by region and demographic group, to promote public accountability and highlight progress in reducing disparities.

SPAN respectfully urges the committee to consider these amendments and advance this bill to enhance its practical effectiveness and solidify Michigan's leadership in protecting reproductive and maternal rights. By centering on patient experience and ensuring transparency, Michigan's



S.B. 30 can serve as a model for other states committed to providing equitable, compassionate maternal healthcare.

Sincerely,

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