



**Maternity Coalition Launches New Ad Campaign  
in Support of Maryland Injured Baby Fund**

*Legislation would protect families and ensure continued access to maternity services for  
Maryland mothers*

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Steve Kearney (410-685-7080)

BALTIMORE, Md. (February 10, 2015) – Today, a coalition aimed at protecting access to maternity care for women announced the launch of an Internet advertising campaign in support of legislation to create a statewide Maryland No-Fault Injured Baby Fund—paid for by hospitals—that would compensate families directly and provide lifetime care for children who suffer permanent birth injuries.

The [new 60 second spot](#), which highlights a looming crisis in access to maternity care, will be featured statewide on Pandora Internet Radio, Facebook and other social media sites starting this week. “This new ad is part of our ongoing effort to educate Maryland voters and policymakers about the need to create an injured baby fund to protect obstetrical services for women,” said Beth Laverick, Volunteer President of the Maryland Maternity Access Coalition.

The new ad campaign comes on the heels of a Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Task Force recommendation for the Maryland General Assembly to pursue the creation of an Injured Baby Fund to reduce medical liability risk in the field of obstetrics, in order to safeguard women’s access to critical prenatal care ([State panel recommends creation of a birth injury fund](#), Baltimore Sun, 12/24/15).

Legislation to create an Injured Baby Fund is being introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates by Delegate Dr. Dan Morhaim (D-11) and is co-sponsored by House Health Committee Chair Peter Hammen (D-46) and House Minority Leader Nick Kipke (R-31B), among several others. In the Maryland Senate, the legislation is being introduced by Majority Leader Catherine E. Pugh (D-40).

The proposed fund, similar to ones that have been successfully in operation since the late 1980s in [Florida](#) and [Virginia](#), enjoys bi-partisan support from voters across the state. A statewide poll of 799 voters released last year—conducted by [OpinionWorks](#) of Annapolis—found that Maryland voters support creating a birth injury fund by a 3-to-1 margin, with 64 percent in favor and only 21 percent opposed. In the poll, voters strongly support the concept of families giving up their right to sue in exchange for being guaranteed an award from the fund if a child suffers a permanent birth injury.

The Maryland Maternity Access Coalition is a broad a coalition of concerned citizens, organizations, and healthcare providers formed to protect and preserve access to high-quality maternity care for the women of Maryland. For more information on the Maryland Maternity

Access Coalition, visit the coalition's Facebook page and website at [www.facebook.com/mdmaternityaccess](http://www.facebook.com/mdmaternityaccess) and [www.mdmaternityaccess.org](http://www.mdmaternityaccess.org).

###