June 17, 2022

Honorable Katherine Clark
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2448
Washington, DC 20515-2105

Re: Support for H.R. 7073 Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Act of 2022

Dear Representative Clark,

On behalf of OCHIN, I appreciate the opportunity to offer strong support for H.R. 7073, the Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Act of 2022, which reauthorizes programs that address maternal depression and substance use disorders and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to maintain a hotline for pregnant women suffering from SUD and mental health problems.

OCHIN is a national health information technology and research network that offers technology solutions, informatics, evidence-based research, and policy insights. OCHIN serves nearly 1,000 community health care sites with 21,000 providers in 47 states, reaching more than 6 million patients. For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced equitable health care solutions by leveraging the strength of our network’s unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation for patients and providers in underserved communities.

Increasing access to support and services for mothers is essential to improve maternal health equity, a goal OCHIN fully supports. Severe maternal morbidity (SMM), a general term that covers various unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant health effects to the mother, are on the rise. SMM has increased more than 200% since 1993, with SMM being far more common in women of color. Advancing legislation and policies that address and improve these health outcomes is essential.

The record on maternal health in the U.S. is concerning. This bill takes an important step in reversing a troubling trend that widens the health equity gap and we appreciate your leadership. Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org to discuss how OCHIN can support this important mission.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stoll
Executive Vice President
External Affairs

1 [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/severematernalmorbidity.html](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/severematernalmorbidity.html)