



July 3, 2021

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
36TH GUAM LEGISLATURE
173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 207
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: BILL 112 - 36 WILL HARM PATIENTS' ACCESS TO CARE

Dear Speaker Terlaje & the 36th Legislature of Guam:

I am a Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist caring for patients on the island of Guam and I have had the privilege to care for some of you and your family members. That said, this letter is written to oppose Bill 112-36, which would repeal the Guam Mandatory Medical Malpractice Arbitration Act (the "Arbitration Law"). This Bill will have a very negative impact on healthcare for women and their babies on Guam.

I recall speaking with Dr. Chris Perez before he passed, and remember his support of the current Arbitration Law, just in the last 15 years; I personally have seen Guam improve especially in the advances for women & their unborn babies. If you don't know, you should be aware that Guam's maternity population is very high-risk one, with high rates of Diabetes, Hypertension, Auto-Immune Disorders, Pre-Eclampsia, Placenta Abnormalities, Twins, Advance Maternal Age with comorbidities, and many congenital fetal anomalies. Mothers with these conditions in Hawaii and State side are cared for by our specialists, and this is where I feel I have made a positive difference on your island in saving the lives of mothers and their babies.

I also wish to express to you the complexity of providing medical care on Guam is a challenging one. The danger of your Bill 112-36 is it disregards the overall healthcare infrastructure of the entire island, and is narrowly focused on lawsuits. Thinking that by suing doctor, nurses, allied healthcare providers, it will solve the problem you have with the healthcare system and hold them "accountable," it will not. To make improvements to healthcare and save lives is to ensure you continue to encourage competent providers to come to Guam and not threatened them with lawsuits which many would be considered frivolous that will not be screened well under Bill 112-36.

The expanded liability under Bill 112-36 for me is a grave concern, Dr. Shieh and I have discussed this in great detail and he has pleaded with me to continue to see high-risk mothers on Guam, but that risk is unreasonable, which I am unwilling to take.

Should Bill 112-36 be passed into law, it will hinder access for the most critical patients. I humbly urge you and your colleagues to not repeal the arbitration law; it has helped your island saved many mothers and their babies.

Sincerely,

Greigh I. Hirata, MD, FACOG

Board Certified, Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist
Board Certified, Human Genetics Specialist