March 11, 2016

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA  98504-0002

RE: Senate Bill 6534 – Maternal Mortality

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the 99 hospital members of the Washington State Hospital Association, it is a pleasure to ask you to sign Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6534. SB 6534 establishes a state maternal mortality review panel aimed at reducing maternal deaths in Washington State. The bill before you is the result of a collaborative effort between the Washington State Medical Association, Washington Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Washington State Hospital Association. The bill enjoyed strong, bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

Washington’s maternal mortality rate is higher than the national average, yet the causes of maternal death are often unknown or difficult to identify. This bill establishes a maternal mortality review panel that will have access to enhanced medical data from across the state for the purposes of identifying risk factors or causes of maternal death and making clinical or policy recommendations. WSHA plans to participate actively in the process and to learn from the findings.

We respectfully request you sign SB 6534 into law.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Cassie Sauer
Executive Vice President
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