



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 914
Title: Doulas - Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification
Date: March 10, 2020
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) is in strong support of *Senate Bill 914 – Doulas – Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification* with a clarifying amendment. The legislation establishes a critical advisory group that will provide recommendations on the voluntary certification of doulas and Medicaid reimbursement. Doulas are important partners in supporting individuals throughout their pregnancy, delivery, and perinatal care.

The advisory group will research and make recommendations on important questions including:

- Which certifying entities should Maryland recognize in a voluntary certification program;
- How can we ensure that doula services are accessible to individuals regardless of insurance status or income; and
- How can doulas support efforts to lower morbidity and mortality rates and address health disparities?

ACNM requests a small clarifying amendment on page 3 in line 5 as follows:

“one nurse-midwife licensed in the State-CERTIFIED IN THE STATE AND NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND AFFILIATE OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSE MIDWIVES”

We ask for a favorable report with our clarifying amendment. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.