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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: HB 837

Title: Public Health – Maternal Mortality and Morbidity – Implicit Bias Training and Study

Hearing Date: February 26, 2020

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 837 – Public Health – Maternal Mortality and Morbidity – Implicit Bias Training and Study*. This bill would require health care professionals involved in perinatal care at hospitals and birth centers to take implicit bias training on a biannual basis.

PPM understands that implicit bias can impact the quality of care provided to patients receiving perinatal care. A health care professional, who may hold no explicit prejudices towards a patient, may still treat that patient differently due to his or her unrecognized implicit bias. This may compromise the quality of care that a patient receives, as well as the newborn. Implicit bias training can help health professionals identify their own implicit biases, change their way of thinking, and work towards eliminating discriminatory behavior. We believe this will improve the quality of care for individuals receiving perinatal care in Maryland.

Thank you for our consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.