



**Committee:** House Ways and Means Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 618 - Maryland Parental Rights Act

**Hearing Date:** February 24, 2022

**Position:** Oppose

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly opposes *House Bill 618 – Maryland Parental Rights Act*. While the bill does not change any underlying rights for minors to consent to clinical care, it does provide that any practitioner who violates consent requirements could be subject to a criminal misdemeanor charge with up to 1 year imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. We believe this provision is designed to have a chilling effect on practitioners providing services to minors, even though Maryland law allows minors to consent to certain services such as substance use disorder treatment and contraception. Therefore we strongly oppose this bill, and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).