



Committee: Senate Education, Environment, and Energy Committee

Bill Number: SB 741 – Public Institutions of Higher Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policy Requirements – Pregnant and Parenting Support Act

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Position: Support with Sponsor Amendments

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 741 – Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policy Requirements – Pregnant and Parenting Act* with sponsor’s amendments. The bill, with the clarifying amendments offered by the sponsor, expand the scope of support provided by higher education institutions to pregnant and parenting students.

ACNM supports equitable access to education for pregnant and parenting students. Pregnant and parenting students are more likely to face financial challenges in completing their education. For example, 60% of parenting students report that they face housing insecurity in comparison to 41% of non-parenting students.ⁱ This legislation will make a difference in the lives of these students as higher education institutions must provide or refer to critical health care and wrap-around services including support for enrollment in programs, such as Maryland Medicaid and the Women’s, Infants, and Children’s Program.

We appreciate the sponsor’s amendments which build upon the existing law to ensure that pregnant students will be provided with support for all options with pregnancy care.

We ask for a favorable report on the legislation and sponsor’s amendments. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ https://www.trellisstrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2023/10/Navigating-College-and-Parenting.pdf