

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568
Dawn.Gile@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0741 - Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policy Requirements (Pregnant and Parenting Support Act)

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0741 seeks to ensure that public higher education institutions adopt comprehensive policies that support pregnant and parenting students. These policies include access to health care services and academic accommodations tailored to their needs. Research shows that prenatal care significantly improves maternal and fetal health outcomes, making access to it crucial for pregnant students.

Supporting these students is not just a policy issue—it's a moral imperative. Everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams, regardless of parental status. By mandating policies outlined in SB0741, we can create a more inclusive educational environment. This includes referral services for essential programs like the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and child care assistance, ensuring pregnant and parenting students feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

I have enclosed a sponsor amendment that broadens the services that must be provided or referred to including prenatal, labor and delivery, postpartum health care, abortion care, and adoption services.

Per the Fiscal Note, passage of this bill likely would not require additional state resources. I therefore respectfully request a favorable report on SB0741.