



The Maryland State Medical Society  
63711 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 263701-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
The Honorable Dawn Gile

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 741 – *Public Senior Higher Education Institutions – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policy Requirements (Pregnant and Parenting Support Act)*

---

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 741.

Senate Bill 741 seeks to address the issues that students who are pregnant, have recently given birth, or are non-birth parents face in attempting to advance their education, while addressing the demands associated with pregnancy and early parenthood demands. Senate Bill 741 requires higher education institutions to adopt policies related to pregnant and parenting students that is consistent with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which includes a prohibition of a requirement for pregnant students to take a leave of absence; allows pregnant students, students who have recently given birth, and non-birth parents to take a leave of absence and return in good academic standing; and requires the adoption of policies related to pregnancy discrimination awareness and other issues that impact pregnant students. The bill also requires the policy to include requirements for referrals to on-campus and off-campus services regarding the availability of or eligibility for government assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Childcare Scholarship Program, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program as well as referrals to on-campus and off-campus health care service providers.

Academic success is a key factor in enabling students to become productive, self-sufficient individuals who can advance professionally and personally. The added challenges of pregnancy and the initial months after delivery can negatively impact a student, despite a desire and commitment to complete their education and advance their professional development. Passage of Senate Bill 741 will help ensure that institutions of higher education have policies that support the success and advancement of their students who experience a pregnancy or birth of a child. It will enhance the likelihood of success for these students as well as their ability to support their families. A favorable report is requested.