



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: HB 119

Title: Public Health – Giving Infants a Future Without Transmission (GIFT) Act

Hearing Date: February 7, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 119 – Public Health – Giving Infants a Future Without Transmission (GIFT) Act*. The bill updates testing and hospital protocol requirements to reduce the perinatal transmission rates for HIV and syphilis. In particular, we would like to highlight several aspects of the legislation:

- The existing law does not acknowledge the role of non-physicians in HIV testing and pregnancy care. We appreciate the Department’s proposed language which recognizes the broad scope of providers, including certified nurse-midwives and licensed certified midwives, who provide services to people who are pregnant and/or at risk for HIV;
- The new proposed language regarding requirements for HIV testing during pregnancy reflects best practices; and
- The proposed requirement that hospitals determine the syphilis serologic status of the new mother before discharge will help ensure the provision of appropriate follow-up care after discharge.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.