

---

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1216 – High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund - Establishment

**Hearing:** March 15, 2024

**Position:** Favorable

---

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports the intent of *House Bill 1216 – High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund - Establishment*. The bill establishes the High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund as a special non-lapsing fund to reimburse individuals for unforeseen out-of-pocket costs for high-risk pregnancies.

Nationally, costs associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care average \$18,865 and the average out-of-pocket costs reach nearly \$3,000. For pregnancies resulting in cesarean section (C-section) the cost averages \$26,280 and out-of-pocket expenses exceed \$3,200.<sup>1</sup> As you can imagine, these costs increase in high-risk pregnancies. Many Marylanders do not have the liquid assets needed to cover the related expenses which may leave new parents at risk for mounting medical debt.

As a health care provider, Planned Parenthood of Maryland is committed to high-quality reproductive health care and supporting pregnant people in *all* their pregnancy related options. PPM understands the sometimes-debilitating impact of pregnancy and pregnancy-related costs. A fund to assist vulnerable Marylanders offset the cost of high-risk pregnancy aligns with PPM's values.

Please contact Erin Bradley, Vice President of Public Affairs, at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care) or (443) 604-3544 for additional information.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/health-costs-associated-with-pregnancy-childbirth-and-postpartum-care/#Average%20additional%20health%20spending%20associated%20with%20pregnancy,%20relative%20to%20women%20of%20the%20same%20age%20who%20do%20not%20give%20birth,%20among%20people%20with%20large%20employer%20coverage,%202018%20-%202020>