



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 1104 – Maryland Department of Health - AHEAD Model Implementation - Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 1104 – Maryland Department of Health - AHEAD Model Implementation - Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund*. The legislation requires electronic health networks to provide electronic health care transactions to the State–designated health information exchange and creates the Population Health Improvement Fund to invest in population health improvements to support the statewide population health targets under the AHEAD model and any successor models.

On September 5, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new voluntary, state total cost of care model: the States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. In this Model, CMS provides funding to support participating states through various AHEAD Model components that aim to increase investment in primary care, provide financial stability for hospitals, and support beneficiary connection to community resources. This bill is necessary for proper AHEAD Model implementation.

ACNM supports the goals of the AHEAD Model. Improving population health is an integral part of nurse midwifery practice. Nurse midwives play a crucial role in improving population health by providing accessible, holistic reproductive healthcare, particularly for underserved communities, focusing on preventative care, education, and promoting healthy pregnancy outcomes, which can significantly reduce maternal mortality rates and improve infant health, especially when integrated into broader public health initiatives.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.