



Maryland
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 156 – Workgroup on Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services -
Establishment**

Position: *Support*

March 19, 2025

House Health & Government Operations Committee

MHA Support

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 156 as amended.

Newborn nurse home visiting programs provide families of newborns with personalized, non-stigmatizing, comprehensive services through a care system designed to enhance perinatal health outcomes. They emphasize evidence-based practices to improve overall health and wellness. Key focus areas include positive parenting, economic self-sufficiency, child development, and reducing child maltreatment and family violence.

In 2023, data from Frederick Health's Family Connect Pilot Program showed several promising results including:¹

- Decreased emergency department visits for new mothers and babies
- Diminished health disparities for Black families
- Effective identification of undiagnosed postpartum depression or anxiety and preeclampsia
- Successful connections for families to wraparound services
- Improved rates of breastfeeding, childhood immunizations, and overall better maternal and infant health outcomes

SB 156 would establish a work group to collect more recent data from the Family Connect Programs, compare this program to other maternal and newborn health programs, and explore funding sources to expand the program. The work group's recommendations will be critical to ensure that any future statewide implementation of universal newborn nurse home visiting services is effective, sustainable, and tailored to the unique needs of our diverse population.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 156.

For more information, please contact:

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¹ [Impact of a universal perinatal home-visiting program on reduction in race disparities in maternal and child health: Two randomised controlled trials and a field quasi-experiment - PMC](#)