



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

<b>DATE:</b>	March 19, 2025
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	House Health and Government Operations Committee
<b>POSITION:</b>	Support with Sponsor’s Amendment
<b>FROM:</b>	Pilar Olivo, Executive Project Manager, Family Connects Frederick County

On behalf of Family Connects Frederick County, we support the sponsor’s amendment to align SB 156 with HB 334 as approved on the third reading.

The amendment draws additional expertise into the workgroup, provides staffing by Maryland Family Network in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Health, includes a review of broader array of home visiting and evidence-based universal nurse home visiting programs serving newborns, and adds a focus on review and recommendations for workforce needs for including culturally competent care through an evidence-based universal nurse home visiting model for newborns.

These changes will enable the workgroup to provide a comprehensive and fair assessment of the support available to families with newborns and generate recommendations that are implementable to strengthen support families with newborns and improve maternal newborn health outcomes.