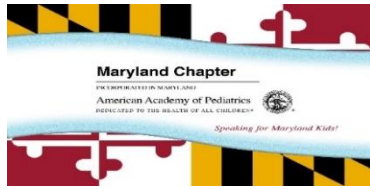
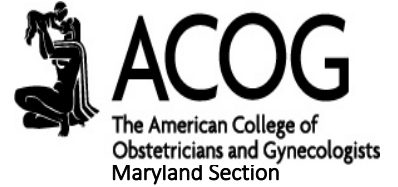




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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 12, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 183 – *Health Insurance – Health Benefit Plans – Special Enrollment Period for Pregnancy*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 183.

During the 2019 Session, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 36, requiring both small employer and individual health benefit plans to provide a special enrollment period for a woman who becomes pregnant. The above-named organizations supported this bill as a simple, straightforward, and effective means to ensure that health care coverage is available for pregnant women, thereby reducing the risk for poor maternal and fetal outcomes during pregnancy. It also increases the likelihood of a positive birth outcome and a healthy newborn.

Senate Bill 183 simply removes the requirement that a health care practitioner must confirm the pregnancy and instead allows the woman to self-attest to the pregnancy. We believe that this is a common-sense approach to expedite enrollment and remove the administrative burden on the health care practitioner. We urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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