



**Testimony Concerning SB 183  
“Health Insurance - Health Benefit Plans - Special  
Enrollment Period for Pregnancy”  
Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee  
February 12, 2020**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 183, which would remove the requirement that a health care practitioner confirm a pregnancy before a pregnant woman could enroll in a health benefit plan. This legislation would promote prenatal care among women who are currently uninsured, leading to more positive birth outcomes and, in all likelihood, cost savings to the State’s health system.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. As the largest and oldest statewide child advocacy organization in Maryland, MFN is strongly committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children across our state.

The onset of pregnancy brings an array of health needs and potential challenges, and access to prenatal care is a critical component of maternal and child health. Conversely, a lack of adequate prenatal care can lead to a host of negative and costly outcomes, both for individuals and for society as a whole.

To ensure healthy pregnancies and healthy babies, MFN urges your favorable consideration of SB 183.