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**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Bill:** SB 183 - Health Insurance - Health Benefit Plans - Special Enrollment Period for Pregnancy  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Dental Action Committee supports *Senate Bill 183 – Health Insurance – Health Benefit Plans – Special Enrollment Period for Pregnancy*. The bill would remove a barrier for pregnant women enrolling in an Exchange Plan after open enrollment. The rules are cumbersome and difficult for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to administer. Pregnant women must submit paperwork from health care providers verifying that they are pregnant. The bill proposes streamlining the process by allowing women to attest to being pregnant.

MDAC supports this legislation because it will make it easier and faster for pregnant women to get coverage for prenatal care and other needed health care services, including dental. If pregnant women must wait for paperwork from their health care providers, it will delay coverage, possibly resulting in gaps in their health care services.

The special enrollment program is an important tool to connect pregnant women to health insurance. We need to make sure that the program works well. We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. Please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443 if we can provide any further information.

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