



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 710

Bill Title: Health General – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – County Health Officer

Position: Oppose

Date: March 3, 2020

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) opposes *Senate Bill 710 – Health General – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – County Health Officer*. The bill would allow a local health department or local health officer access to data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for the purposes of evaluating the distribution or abuse of a monitored prescription drug

In managing access to the PDMP data, it is critical to take a balanced approach. The PDMP is primarily structured as a clinical tool, so that providers can be informed about their patient's prescription history with controlled dangerous substances. The data can be used for bona fide investigations by state officials in certain circumstances. SB 710 is problematic because it would give the local health departments access to patient specific data without the same legal guardrails that apply to state officials. We are concerned that this will have a chilling effect on providers' willingness to treat individuals with chronic pain.

We appreciate that the intent of the legislation relates to giving local health departments another public health tool. However, we ask for an unfavorable report as we believe there will be unintended consequences. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.