



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 914  
**Title:** Doulas - Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification  
**Date:** March 10, 2020  
**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 914 – Doulas – Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification* with an amendment. The bill creates an advisory committee to study how to support doula services through voluntary certification and Medicaid reimbursement. Doulas and nurses are important partners in supporting individuals through pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the post-partum periods. Similar to community health workers, doulas provide supportive, rather than clinical services. These services can make a difference to individuals who face barriers in accessing and navigating the health care system. Their services could help Maryland lower maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

Given the importance of the partnership between nurses and doulas, we would like to request that there be an additional member of the advisory group:

“A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES ASSOCIATION WITH EXPERTISE IN PREGNANCY CARE”

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. We urge the committee to act on this important legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.