AFFILIATE OF

AMERICAN COLLEGE
of NURSE-MIDWIVES
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Committee:	**House Health and Government Operations Committee**
Bill Number:	**HB 837**
Title:	**Public Health – Maternal Mortality and Morbidity – Implicit Bias Training and Study**
Hearing Date:	**February 26, 2020**
Position:	**Support**

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 837 – Public Health – Maternal Mortality and Morbidity – Implicit Bias Training and Study.* This bill would require health care professionals involved in perinatal care at hospitals and birthing centers to take implicit bias training on a biannual basis.

Implicit bias, the automatic association people make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups, can inadvertently impact the quality of care provided to patients. Implicit bias is difficult to self-identify, since by its very nature it is unconscious, and may even contradict a person's conscious attitudes. It is for this very reason that implicit bias training is so important. A health care professional who holds no explicit prejudices towards another individual may still treat a patient differently due to implicit bias. Implicit bias training would help health professionals recognize their own implicit bias, help change those automatic ways of thinking, and work towards eliminating discriminatory behavior. This, in turn, would improve the perinatal care provided to patients in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. We also would support other initiatives that promote implicit bias training for health professionals in other settings, such as home birth settings. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.