



Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Bill number: HB 1563
Title: Public Health – Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties
Hearing Date: March 9, 2020
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 1563 – Public Health – Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties*. This bill would create a trust, supported by an assessment on hospital obstetric units, that would pay for medical and supportive care for individuals who suffer a neurological injury during birth.

ACNM supports policy to stabilize what has become a liability crisis for hospitals and families that have a child who has suffered neurological injury during birth. Under the current system, juries award a lump sum to a family for an infant’s future care. This is difficult to estimate, as has been demonstrated by awards that have been insufficient to cover future costs to others that have been so high they have led to drastic cost of care increases and impacted the ability of providers to provide maternity care.

This bill would pay medical and supportive expenses, which would include transportation and home modifications, as needed throughout the life of the injured individual, offering peace of mind to the family that their expenses in this regard will always be covered. Hospitals will still be responsible for all other costs associated with litigation, such as non-economic damages, pain and suffering, lost earnings, and attorney’s fees.

We believe this bill is a way forward to ensure coverage for affected families while maintaining access to maternity care, and we ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.