



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Sarah K. Elfreth

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 777 – *Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 777.

Senate Bill 777 expands the current Prenatal and Infant Care grant program to include grant funding for the provision of prenatal care services to low-income residents who do not otherwise have access to Medicaid or other health care services. The bill reflects the recommendations included in the final report of the Maternal and Child Health Task Force created by the General Assembly to comprehensively assess and identify policies and programs to address maternal and child health disparities. It also is reflected in the recommendations of the Senate President's Advisory Group on Equity and Inclusion.

This legislation is a priority of the above-named organizations and they look forward to working with the sponsor and members of the Committee to address the need to enhance birth outcomes and reduce unnecessary health disparities and inequities for both maternal and child health. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000