



Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Bill Number: SB 438
Title: County Boards of Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports
Hearing Date: February 24, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 438 – County Boards of Education – Pregnant and parenting Students – Policies and Reports*. This bill would require county boards of education to establish a policy to support the educational and parenting goals of pregnant and parenting teams.

As primary care providers of pregnant women and newborns, ACNM strongly supports policies to help women maintain a healthy pregnancy and a healthy child. This bill would help pregnant and parenting students achieve that goal while continuing their education. It does this by requiring that the policy address many of the everyday logistical issues a pregnant or parenting student will face, such as the need for private lactation space, transportation support, and childcare support. Without these supports, many pregnant or parenting students may not be able to continue attending school. This bill would establish a policy to support these students – to support a healthy pregnancy, healthy baby, and healthy student body.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.