

BROCATO & SHATTUCK

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 923 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Eligibility and Disenrollment

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of our client MEDNAX National Medical Group we support **Senate Bill 923**. MEDNAX provides prenatal, neonatal, maternal-fetal and pediatric services across the state of Maryland, with a strong concentration in Western Maryland and the Baltimore/DC corridor. MEDNAX providers treat a significant number of mothers and infants on Medicaid.

Among the major provisions of Senate Bill 923 it *“requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive medical and other health care services for a pregnant Program recipient for the duration of the pregnancy and for 1 year immediately following the end of the woman's pregnancy.”*

Senate Bill 923 will extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for 1 year after the end of a woman's pregnancy. Current law provides Medicaid coverage to pregnant women with incomes between 138 percent and 250 percent of the FPL for 60 days postpartum. Expanding postpartum coverage was a key recommendation of the Task Force on Maryland Maternal and Child Health.

The Task Force was created by Chapters 661 and 662 of the Acts of 2019 (House Bill 520/Senate Bill 406). Our client provided a Maternal & Fetal Medicine physician to serve as a member of the Task Force. The Task Force met over a period of a year and developed 9 recommendations to address issues facing maternal and child health care in Maryland. One of the recommendations was to extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant women until 12 months postpartum.

The COVID crisis has only intensified the need for access to care for pregnant women, mothers and infants. MEDNAX physicians have risen to the challenge to ensure that access to patient care continued according to the State and Federal emergency guidance in effect at any given point of time. We know that more needs to be done and can be done to reach those in need of appropriate and essential prenatal, postpartum, maternal and infant care.

Senate Bill 923 can be an important tool improve maternal health outcomes and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in the State.

For these reasons we ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on **Senate Bill 923**.

For additional information please contact us at 410-269-1503 or barbara@bmbassoc.com