



330 N. Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 576-1400
www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 923

Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Eligibility and Disenrollment

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *Senate Bill 923- Maryland Medical Assistance Program -- Eligibility and Disenrollment*. The bill extends Medicaid postpartum coverage from up to 60 days to 1 year after pregnancy. This bill stems from the *Report of the Senate President's Advisory Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion's* recommendation to extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant women until 12 months postpartum and provide care coordination and health literacy education for individuals as they transition from Medicaid coverage.ⁱ

PPM is committed to initiatives that expand health care coverage. Providing Medicaid coverage for pregnant women to 12 months postpartum will allow women to access care and address health concerns in the critical 12 months after a pregnancy ends. Additionally, PPM strongly support efforts that address health disparities. In Maryland, the maternal mortality rate for Black women is 3.7 times that of white women. Medicaid expansion has shown to narrow disparities for Black and Hispanic people in certain measures of maternal and infant health.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net or (240) 506-9325.

ⁱ Report of the Senate President's Advisory Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion (2021), <http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/SenatePresidentAdvisoryWorkgrouponEquityandInclusion.pdf>