



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 78
Title: Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)
Hearing Date: January 26, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports House Bill 78 as part of a comprehensive legislative package to address health equity issues. ACNM is committed to advancing positive health outcomes for all disenfranchised communities and specifically Black and brown communities. The health equity legislative package includes:

- **House Bill 78 – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021):** This bill requires State agencies to address health equity across all policy areas by the establishment of a commission. The bill is named in honor of Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, who is still leading the State’s advocacy efforts on health equity in her retirement.
- **House Bill 28 – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity:** It is critical that all health care practitioners complete implicit bias training. We supported House Bill 837 in 2020 as a first step. House Bill 837 required facilities to ensure prenatal and postpartum providers received implicit bias training. House Bill 28 requires implicit bias training for all health care providers across the full continuum of services.
- **House Bill 309 – Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information:** This bill enhances capacity of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and disseminate data relevant to evaluate and guide policy decisions to address health inequities.

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.