

BROCATO & SHATTUCK

SUBJECT: House Bill 1349 - Public Health - Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair

DATE: March 19, 2021

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of our client MEDNAX National Medical Group we support **House Bill 1349**. 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.

House Bill 1349 "Renames the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination Services Grant Program Fund to be the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund; alters the purpose of the Fund to include making grants to federally qualified health centers, hospitals, and certain providers to increase access to prenatal care; requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill certain appropriations for the Fund; requires that priority for awarding grants under certain provisions of the Act be given to certain proposals."

This bill will not only increase the amount of funds in the current Program but allows for prenatal care providers to apply for funds. This is an important addition to the Program as it opens the door to providers to implement programs and extend services to the underserved in areas of the state with the most need.

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, maternal and infant care.

House Bill 1349 can be an important tool in expanding access to care and support innovative outreach and care delivery programs.

For these reasons we ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on **House Bill 1349**.

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

200 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
P: 410-269-1503 * F: 410-269-5021 * BARBARA@BMBASSOC.COM