



Support

Senate Bill 716 – Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

March 10, 2022

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 716 – Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding*. The bill will create the Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program which will provide up to \$10,000 in repayment of education loans in the health care field.

ACNM supports this legislation because it will remove financial barriers for students who want to enter into a health care related field. Nurse-midwives are incredibly important to support the overall health of Marylanders. Nurse-midwives contribute to reducing infant mortality, low-birth weight babies, and general better birthing outcomes.

Retaining health care staff has proven difficult as health care workers continue to face exhaustion and burn out. In addition to the hardships related to the pandemic on nurse-midwives, financial burdens of education can also deter students from entering into the nursing profession. Advanced practice nurses, such as nurse-midwives can have upwards \$55,000 in student loan debt.¹ This legislation, by providing a repayment of \$10,000, can encourage students to enter into these fields and provide essential health care services for Marylanders.

For these reasons, we as for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ [Debt_Report.pdf \(aacnursing.org\)](#)