



**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 856 - Public Schools - Health Services - School Nurses

**Hearing Date:** March 8, 2022

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 856 – Public Health Services – School Nurses*. The bill requires every public school to have a full-time nurse. School nurses play a pivotal role in ensuring the health and safety of children in schools, yet they are often assigned multiple schools to cover. This practice means that school nurses may not be on the grounds when a child with a chronic disease, such as diabetes, has an emergency. While there may be a certified nursing assistant or unlicensed health aide on site, they cannot provide the scope of care that registered nurses can provide.

Maryland has made significant investment in education in the last year. We ask that there be an investment in ensuring that students remain healthy and safe so that they can stay in school and continue to learn.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).