



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 548
Title: Local Health Officers - Removal - Grounds and Process
Hearing Date: February 24, 2022
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 548 – Local Health Officers – Removal – Grounds and Process*. The bill would protect local health officers from being removed arbitrarily. Under current law, health officers may be removed without justification. The bill proposes a set of standards identical for removal of health officer, and these standards mirror current standards for local superintendent of schools. As we have seen in Maryland and across the country, local health officers have been removed for reasons that are political rather than based on the local health officer’s performance. These incidents are unfair to the local health officer and damaging to the communities they serve.

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