



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bill Number: SB 778 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act)

Hearing Date: March 8, 2022

Position: Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) strongly supports *Senate Bill 778 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Children and Pregnant Women*. The bill provides Medicaid coverage for pregnant women who would otherwise be ineligible because of immigration status.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental services to underserved communities. Maryland is facing widening health disparities in maternal mortality rates.ⁱ Medicaid coverage is a critical strategy in reducing maternal mortality and improving health outcomes because it improves access to prenatal care. Maternal health has been impacted by rising rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.ⁱⁱ

We ask for a favorable report. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/mch/Documents/MMR/HG%20%C2%A7%20A7%2013-1207%2013-1208%20and%20%C2%A713-1212%20-%20Maryland%20Maternal%20Mortality%20Review%202020.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Ibid