



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: SB 778
Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women
(Healthy Babies Equity Act)
Hearing Date: March 8, 2022
Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 778 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Children and Pregnant Women*. The bill extends Medicaid coverage to pregnant women who would otherwise be ineligible because of immigration status. With Medicaid coverage, more women will be able to obtain prenatal care, thus improving health outcomes for themselves and their newborns. communities. Maryland’s maternal mortality rate is 18.4 per 100,000 and reflects a widening disparity between White non-Hispanic women and women of other backgrounds.ⁱ This bill can address health disparities by extending Medicaid coverage to pregnant women from immigrant communities.

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.

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