

Testimony in Support of HB1080/SB778

Maryland Medical Assistance Program-Children and Pregnant People (Healthy Babies Equity Act)

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Senate Finance Committee

Testimony from Lorraine A. Wilson

February 28, 2022

Honorable Members of the Committee

I strongly support this legislation for several important and personal reasons:

I worked for over 30 years as a teacher of young underprivileged children during which time I became more aware of the importance of not only early education, but just as important, the necessity for good health care for children and their mothers, especially before birth. This is the most crucial time in a child's development. Any lacking at this stage can have devastating results.

I also volunteered a few years back (after my retirement) for an organization that made it possible for pregnant women, unable to get to a clinic (often far away from their homes) to be transported there and back home safely. I had the joy of watching the women as they finally reached the time of birth, do so in relatively good health which made it a joy when a healthy baby was finally delivered. However, I also know that not all women are fortunate enough to receive this care. It can be out of reach, both physically and also due to insufficient funds and support.

Please consider these things as you move towards deciding and please give a favorable report. It is important not only for the welfare of these particular families but also as a whole for a healthier and happier community.

Thank you

Sincerely

Lorraine A. Wilson

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