

**March 8, 2022**

**Testimony on Senate Bill 778**  
**Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women**  
**(Healthy Babies Equity Act)**  
**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1400 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support Senate Bill 778 to assure that all Maryland children and pregnant women have access to affordable quality health coverage, and therefore, without regard to financial situation, or immigration status, “access to care.”

The COVID-10 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of health being readily available to our entire population. Under the Affordable Care Act, expansions of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, and with Maryland’s Health Benefit Exchange we have taken great strides toward that goal. But the disproportionate impact of COVID among immigrant and undocumented individuals and families shows that we have not done enough.

Senate Bill 778 will require the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive medical care and other health care services to noncitizen pregnant women who would qualify for the Program but for their immigration status, and to their children up to the age of 1 year.

We should also have learned by now that, in the common interest of us all, effective protection of public health must include all of the public.

**We urge you to give Senate Bill 778 a favorable report.**