



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 778 MD Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act)
Senate Finance Committee March 8, 2022

FAVORABLE

Approximately 100,000 women in Maryland are currently ineligible for prenatal care through Medicaid due to immigration status.

The additional coverage of prenatal and postpartum care in this bill will be transformative in the lives of many young Marylander, and is expected to **reduce years and decades of avoidable health and social harms** as these children grow into adults.

As these children age, the rates of somatic and behavioral health problems, **including substance-related problems**, will be reduced.

Not only will this improve the quality of life of all Marylanders, but the state would benefit financially as well.

We urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,
Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee