



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 891 – Public Health – Medical Procedures – Parent or Guardian

Hearing: March 16, 2022

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) opposes *Senate Bill 891 – Public Health – Medical Procedure – Parent or Guardian*. By requiring parental notice for abortion care for minors as well as notice of guardians for certain disabled adults, the bill would create health risks for minors and disabled adults. The only way to bypass the notice requirement would be through a judicial waiver. If a parent or guardian disagreed with the minor’s decision, the minor or disabled adult could be pressured to carry pregnancies to term even if that was not their decision. If they sought a judicial bypass, which may be almost impossible to navigate, it would delay care. The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM is opposed to legislation designed to interfere with an individual’s autonomy in making reproductive health decisions. In 2019 after state legislatures introduced a record-breaking number of anti-reproductive health measures, ACNM – National issued a statement that “reaffirms its commitment to individual patient autonomy across the spectrum of reproductive health, including abortion.”ⁱ Therefore, we oppose this legislation and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ<https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007327/ACNM%20Opposition%20Statement%20to%20Threats%20to%20Abortion%20Care%20March%202019.pdf>

