

**Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore
and Vicinity (BMNCBV)**

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB778

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant People
(Healthy Babies Equity Act)
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Senate Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. Sandra Conner

**President Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore & Vicinity (BMNCBV)
March 7, 2022**

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore & Vicinity is submitting this testimony in support for SB778, Healthy Babies Equity Act. We hope that with the passing of this bill eligibility for prenatal care through Medicaid to pregnant people, regardless of status, would be expanded. This change in eligibility would require the state to submit a state innovation waiver (under 1115 of the Social Security Act) to allow Maryland to make this change to eligibility. It would cover care through pregnancy and twelve months postpartum for both mother and child.

BMNCBV is an organization that strives to equip faith leaders with resources to do effective health ministries to keep themselves, congregants, as well as their families, and the people they serve healthy and out of the hospital. This bill would help the women of color we serve, who according to the CDC, are most likely to have the worst outcomes if they become pregnant and do not get quality prenatal and postpartum healthcare. They are more likely to end up with health challenges such as hypertension, diabetes, as well as have financial burdens to pay for childcare, etc.

We thank you in advance for your actions towards SB778.

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