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## **Support**

### **House Bill 1080 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act)**

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 3, 2022

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports Senate Bill 1080 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act). This bill seeks to provide Medicaid coverage to pregnant patients regardless of immigration status.

Access to prenatal and postpartum care significantly improves outcomes for pregnant patients and their children. Prenatal care reduces rates of low birth weight and preterm births and reduces the risk of maternal mortality.<sup>i</sup> Additionally, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends extended Medicaid coverage for individuals for at least one year postpartum.<sup>ii</sup> Passing SB 1080 will help close a significant gap in prenatal and postpartum coverage by extending Medicaid to individuals who but for their immigration status would be eligible. This bill will help the state reach its goals of ending maternal mortality, improving children's health, and reducing overall healthcare spending.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net) or (443) 350-1325.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/ensuring-healthy-births-prenatal-support/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/policy-priorities/extend-postpartum-medicaid-coverage>