



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** HB 1080

**Title:** Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women  
(Healthy Babies Equity Act)

**Hearing Date:** March 1, 2022

**Position:** Support

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The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *House Bill 1080 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Children and Pregnant Women*. The bill provides Medicaid coverage for pregnant women who would otherwise be ineligible because of immigration status.

LCPCM supports this bill because it will improve health outcome for both pregnant women and children. From a behavioral health perspective, Medicaid coverage will improve access to counseling and treatment needed to reduce depression during pregnancy and in the postpartum period. There is a rising rate of depression among pregnant women,<sup>i</sup> which creates greater risk for long-term behavioral health and somatic health issues.

We ask for a favorable report. Please reach out to Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) if any additional information would be helpful.

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<sup>i</sup> Haight, Sarah C. MPH; Byatt, Nancy DO, MS; Moore Simas, Tiffany A. MD, MPH; Robbins, Cheryl L. PhD, MS; Ko, Jean Y. PhD Recorded Diagnoses of Depression During Delivery Hospitalizations in the United States, 2000–2015, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*: June 2019 - Volume 133 - Issue 6 - p 1216-1223  
doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003291