



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**Bill Number:** House Bill 166  
**Title:** Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Doula Program  
**Hearing Date:** February 16, 2022  
**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports House Bill 765 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Doula Program. We suggest consideration of amendments to make the bill consistent with the doula reimbursement pilot expected to be implemented by Medicaid in the next couple of months.

ACNM strongly supports the legislation because it would make Medicaid’s doula reimbursement pilot into a permanent program. Doulas are an essential part of the care team that support pregnant women throughout their pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum period. Doulas provide both physical and emotional support to the families they serve. Doulas also empower women to communicate their needs and perceptions and actualize their dreams of a healthy, positive birth experience. The positive effects of doula care have been found to be greater for women who were socially disadvantaged and low-income.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you to the sponsor and the Committee for their leadership on supporting doula services. If you need any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net) or (443) 350-1325.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3647727/#:~:text=Doulas%20are%20trained%20to%20provide,and%20have%20less%20stressful%20births.>