



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 291

Title: Commission on Public Health - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 291 - Commission on Public Health - Establishment*. The bill will establish a Commission on Public Health to make recommendations to improve the delivery of foundational public health services in the state.

Equity is a core value of ACNM and we applaud this bill's emphasis on assessing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality and birth outcomes in the state. According to the most recent Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Annual Report, the "preponderance of pregnancy-related deaths is occurring among non-Hispanic Black women."¹ This bill will allow the state to dive deeper into the statistics, hear from the experts on potential causes and solutions to this issue, and move the needle in a significant way towards fewer maternal deaths.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/mch/Documents/MMR/HG%20%C2%A7%C2%A7%2013-1207%2013-1208%20and%20%C2%A713-1212%20-%20Maryland%20Maternal%20Mortality%20Review%202020.pdf>