



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 571 – Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)

Hearing Date: February 14, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM supports *Senate Bill 571 – Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)*. The bill recognizes the detrimental impact that social media can have on children.

The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM represents certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in Maryland. Midwives provide care to people of all ages who need reproductive and gynecologic care. According to the U.S. Surgeon General’s 2023 Social Media and Youth Mental Health Advisory, adolescents are more at risk of mental health issues if they use social media more than three hours a day.ⁱ Young people, particular adolescent girls, are particularly at risk of cyberbullying, leading to depression, anxiety disorders, and even suicidal ideation. This bill helps to protect Maryland youth in an increasingly digital world.

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

ⁱ <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/sg-youth-mental-health-social-media-advisory.pdf>