



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

**Bill Number:** SB 705 – Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

**Hearing Date:** March 21, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 705 – Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)*. The bill would simply allow people who do not have legal status to purchase insurance on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange with their own earnings. Maryland should take this step forward as it will allow us to improve health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum individuals as well as their newborns. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has set a goal to “increase the proportion of pregnant women who receive early and adequate prenatal care” in the Healthy People 2030 program<sup>i</sup>. Increasing the number of families who are insured is a critical strategy in ensuring access to care.

This legislation has no cost to the State, as participants would be purchasing insurance with their own funds. In fact, the State of Maryland would realize savings in health care, social, and educational systems. If we can improve the health outcomes of newborns and their families, we reduce the need for higher-intensity services.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth/increase-proportion-pregnant-women-who-receive-early-and-adequate-prenatal-care-mich-08>