



Bill No: SB156
Title: Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage
Committee: Finance
Hearing: January 29, 2025
Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB156 - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage** is a priority on the [2025 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

SB156 would provide families with newborns in-home visits to promote child and maternal health, positive parenting, family self-sufficiency, and other aspects conducive to family cohesion early in a newborn's life.

The first few months of life are critical to ensuring long-term success. Many families lack access to qualified health care professionals to learn practices, techniques, and ensure their home is infant-ready. These free visits help women overcome challenges —especially in low-income communities and communities of color—related to affordability, transportation, access to a qualified health care professional, spousal/partner interference, and gaps in knowledge.

Universal Newborn Home Visiting will allow women access to health care professionals specialized in infant and maternal health. During the visits, they can learn practices and techniques that benefit them and their child(ren). These visits provide additional opportunities when mothers can ask questions of qualified health professionals to ensure mothers are armed with the knowledge they need to provide for their newborn. Finally, Universal In-home Visits provide an opportunity to prevent and address violence in the home.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB156.

MLAW 2025 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Garrett Branch
AAUW Howard County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
Anne Arundel County NOW
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence
Calvert County Democratic Womens' Club
Charles County Commission for Womrn
Child Justice, Inc.
City of College Park MD
Court Watch Montgomery
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter
FinnCORE, Inc.
Frederick County Commission for Women
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Kids for Saving Earth
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Montgomery County, MD, NOW
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter
NCBWSOMD
ShareBaby, Inc.
Stella's Girls Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center of UMB
Trans Maryland
Unrooted Culture
Women of Honor International
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland Coalition
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland

*signed on as of 1/26/2025

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 • Towson, MD 21204 • 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com • www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org