



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 156

**Title:** Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage

**Hearing Date:** January 29, 2025

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives strongly supports *Senate Bill 156 - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage*. The legislation will create a statewide program of nurse visits available to new parents.

We know that families benefit from extended support during the newborn period, support that goes well beyond what any individual healthcare provider can offer. Providing home visiting by nurses who can evaluate the health and wellbeing of mother and child, answer questions about newborn care, infant feeding, and assess for infant and maternal concerns such as postpartum mood disorders or substance use meets many community needs.

The success of model programs including Family Connects in Frederick, where 88% of new families accessed the resources, as well as the programs in Prince George’s County for families at UM Capital Region and at Sinai in Baltimore City, illustrate the benefits a statewide program can offer our families.

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