



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 848 – Public Health - Abortion Grant Program and Establishment

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 848 – Public Health – Abortion Grant Program and Establishment*. The bill addresses the urgent need for sustainable resources to ensure equitable abortion access in Maryland.

In November 2024, Maryland codified the right to reproductive freedom in Maryland’s Constitution with 76% of the voters supporting Question 1. Yet the right to abortion does not equate to access. People still face many barriers to accessing abortion care in their communities. While Maryland’s law requires abortion coverage in state-regulated plans, about two-thirds of people have insurance plans that do not have to meet that requirement.

People who are uninsured or underinsured often turn to abortion providers and non-profit abortion funds for support. However, the abortion provider and abortion fund community are extremely stretched because of the tumultuous reproductive health landscape.

We support SB 848 because it creates a public health grant program to support equitable access to abortion care. Unlike other types of health care, such as family planning and cancer screening, there are no public health grants for abortion care. This dearth of public health grant funding is the legacy of federal restrictions such as the Hyde Amendment.

Abortion care is healthcare. Please vote favorably on SB 848. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.