

January 27, 2025

**Testimony in Support of SB0156
Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services –
Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage
Senate Finance Committee**

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Child Resource Connect (CRC), formerly Prince George’s Child Resource Center, has been providing services to Prince George’s County since 1990. CRC helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. Through a comprehensive array of programming—direct services for children and families, education and coaching for child care providers, and grassroots advocacy in partnership with stakeholders at all levels—we work towards communities in which all families have access to the resources and support they need to build stable, secure environments in which children can thrive. CRC implemented Family Connects Prince George’s in 2021.

SB0156 will require Maryland Department of Health to support implementation of the evidence-based home visiting program, Family Connects, in local communities by requiring reimbursement for the service by commercial insurance payers and Medicaid. This approach can make Family Connects sustainable while having a significant impact.

The Family Connects model offers health and wellness checks post-partum for all birth parents and newborns by a nurse at no charge to families. Family Connects fills a critical gap in care for birthing parents and newborns in the six weeks between hospital discharge and the first postpartum doctor’s appointment when almost 25% of deaths from pregnancy-related complications occur. **Research shows a return of \$3.17 for every \$1 investment for infant emergency department use and overnight hospital stays. Evidence also shows reduced racial disparities for maternal anxiety/depression child maltreatment investigations, and other impacts.**

CRC’s own Family Connects program has already grown to serve 700 families annually. Upon implementation, there was an immediate uptake on services and opportunities to scale the program. CRC wholeheartedly confirms the need for this program, and making it widely available in good for Maryland. Our nurses see patients every day who need these visits to understand their discharge orders, monitor blood pressure, and overall health of themselves and their babies.

Family Connects Prince George’s has an active community advisory board made up of individuals in the private and private sector, including many health care professionals.

Following is a list of our members who support this bill:

Patricia McCartney
Maribel Rodriguez
Jessica Jones
Alyson B Jacobson
Norberto Martinez, Langley Park Civic Ass. Inc.
Nicollette Carroll
Ruben Cuebas
Nydia Ocasio
Margaret Doyle
Donna Edwards
Jeffrey Scott Jacobson
Pamela Hamlin
LaChey Maynard
Barbara E. Solt, PhD, ACSW
Nicole Davis
Samantha Griffin
Mariela Vargas
Dr. La'Juan A. Way

Thank you for your leadership for our community.

