



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**Senate Bill SB0156 - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services - Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage**

**Finance Committee – January 29, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2025 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of [SB0156](#) - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services - Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage. This bill will require the Maryland Department of Health to establish a flexible, voluntary program to provide universal newborn home visiting services by a registered nurse to all families with newborns residing in Maryland. The program will be developed in accordance with best practices in consultation with health care providers, social service agencies, insurers, and community-based organizations. Services will be provided in-home or virtually to all families caring for newborns (including foster and adoptive newborns) and to birthing individuals, within two weeks of the birth and include at least one visit with an opportunity for three additional visits during the newborn's first twelve weeks of life. A follow-up call will occur no later than three months after the last visit. Insurers, health service plans and health maintenance organizations will be required to provide coverage and reimbursement for the full cost of these newborn nurse home visiting services without a co-pay or deductible. The Department of Health will be required to evaluate program success.

The [first twelve weeks](#) after birth, often called the fourth trimester, are a critical time for a mother's physical and mental health, and for bonding and breast-feeding attachment. Women are also most at risk for post-partum depression during this period. Yet only [40 percent](#) of mothers have post-partum visits. Many families, especially underserved communities of color, lack access to qualified health care professionals to learn the practices, and techniques that promote newborn and maternal health, and positive parenting.

Passage of this bill will ensure that all new parents receive the health care support they need for successful maternal and infant outcomes during the critical first twelve weeks after birth. It will ensure that underserved communities, particularly underserved communities of color, have equal access to these resources and best practices.

**We ask for your support for SB0156 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

Tazeen Ahmad  
WDC President

Ginger Macomber  
WDC Reproductive Health  
Subcommittee

Diana Conway  
WDC Advocacy Co-Chair