

Community After Birth

1315 Saint Stephens Church Rd
Crownsville, MD 21032
(443) 203-9177
hello@communityafterbirth.org



Jan 27, 2025

Re: Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage (SB156/HB344)

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates, State Senate, and the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Representatives of Community After Birth urge you to vote in favor of the Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services – Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage Bill (SB156/HB344).

My name is Lauren Thompson. I am the founder and Chair of Community After Birth, an Anne Arundel county-based nonprofit organization dedicated to closing gaps in postpartum care and support. Additionally, I Co-Chair Postpartum Support International - Maryland, the leading perinatal mental health resource in the United States. I am also a concerned Maryland resident, mother of three, and postpartum doula.

I see in my work every day the physical, emotional, and social support parents require when navigating their healing, parenthood transitions, and care of their newborn(s). While one single home-visiting program that includes one nurse visit at 3-weeks postpartum will not answer all of the current perinatal mortality and morbidity issues our state faces, it will push the needle in the right direction health insurance coverages need to go for the betterment of Maryland residents.

The passage of this bill creates a two-generation positive impact, provides crucial mental health resources, and adds to the important work of funding and fortifying a network of postpartum social support services that will bring about a healthier Maryland population.

Sincerely,

Lauren Thompson, Chair

Community After Birth