



**Committee:** Senate Finance Operations

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)

**Hearing Date:** February 11, 2025

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 508 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)*. The bill would require both private insurance and Medicaid to cover aesthetic and restorative services provided to assist certain survivors of domestic violence.

Domestic violence survivors too often suffer from scarring, a daily reminder of their abusive situations. Health insurance rarely covers cosmetic procedures except in rare cases of traumatic injury. Most survivors of domestic violence must rely on pro-bono services.<sup>i</sup> ACNM supports this legislation because it requires Medicaid and health insurers to cover services and procedures that will help erase the physical signs of domestic violence

We would request one clarifying amendment on who can determine which services are medically necessary. The bill limits the type of clinician who can determine which services are medically necessary. We recommend this provision be broadened as other types of providers, including nurse practitioners and dentists, also can also determine medical necessity and provide services:

On page 3 in lines 26-27, strike “PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED” and replace with  
“HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO  
PRACTICE UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE”

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

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815\(21\)00649-5/fulltext](https://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815(21)00649-5/fulltext)