



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 676 – Health Facilities – Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – Perinatal Care Standards

**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2025

**Position:** Support with Amendment

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 676 – Health Care Facilities – Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – Perinatal Care Standards*. The bill requires the Department of Health adopt regulations for minimum perinatal care standards as a condition of licensure.

ACNM supports robust perinatal care standards for facilities. As we understand the intent of the bill, the perinatal standards referenced are for hospitals. Therefore, these standards would not be applicable to freestanding birthing centers. We ask that the provision on freestanding birthing standards be removed because:

- Perinatal standards for hospitals are not applicable to birthing centers;
- Freestanding birthing centers already have regulations defining standards for pregnancy and perinatal care; and
- There are no freestanding birthing centers in Maryland because the financial model is not sustainable under current reimbursement policies. If Maryland adds unnecessary regulatory requirements for birthing centers, it will complicate efforts to rebuild the base of birthing centers in Maryland.

Therefore, we request the following amendment:

*On page 2, strike lines 18-31.*

Thank you for your consideration of our amendment. If any additional information would be helpful, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).