



**To:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 334 - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services - Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage

**Date:** January 29, 2025

**Position:** Favorable

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The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants supports *House Bill 334 - Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services - Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage*. The bill requires the Department of Health to establish a universal newborn home visitation program for new parents, based on a model developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. State-regulated private plans would be required to provide coverage of similar services to their enrollees.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human services has deemed the Family Connects model as effective in improving children’s health.<sup>i</sup> A nurse makes a home visit in the first three weeks of a newborn’s life to assess the needs of the newborn and facilitate linkages to services. The nurse makes a follow-up visit to provide any further referrals.

MdAPA supports this legislation because it establishes an evidence-based program that will improve health outcomes for Maryland’s children. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/models/family-connects>