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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2025

To: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for **HB 334: Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services - Program Establishment and Insurance Coverage**. This critical piece of legislation aims to establish a comprehensive program for universal newborn nurse home visiting services, as well as to ensure insurance coverage for these vital services.

Maryland's maternal and infant mortality rates are concerning, with the state currently ranking 19th in the nation and significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's target of 15 per 100,000 births. Minority women and their infants are disproportionately affected by higher rates of maternal and infant mortality, as well as negative health outcomes in the crucial weeks and months following delivery. The need for targeted interventions, such as universal newborn nurse home visiting services, could not be more urgent.

HB 334 would help bridge the gap in healthcare access for new mothers, particularly those in underserved communities, by ensuring that all newborns and their families have access to critical postnatal care and support. This legislation directly addresses the healthcare disparities that contribute to higher maternal and infant mortality rates, ultimately saving lives and improving the health outcomes of mothers and their babies.

We respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** for HB 334. Together, we can ensure that Maryland's mothers and infants receive the care and support they deserve, ultimately improving the lives of families across our state.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders.