



Maryland Section

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 10, 2026

Senate Bill 420 – *Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Plan and Reporting*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MD ACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** Senate Bill 420.

Senate Bill 420 would require the Maryland Higher Education Commission and public institutions of higher education to collect demographic data on students' parental status and to adopt comprehensive plans to support pregnant and parenting students. This approach aligns with ACOG's commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Pregnancy and parenting are significant life events with profound health, economic, and educational implications. Students who are pregnant or caring for children often face unique barriers that jeopardize their academic success, economic stability, and health. Pregnant and parenting students often face elevated stress, significant caregiving responsibilities, financial insecurity, and interruptions to their education, which together contribute to lower retention and higher dropout rates than those experienced by their non-parenting peers. Yet, many higher education institutions lack systematic data on the number and needs of these students or formal policies to ensure they can remain enrolled and succeed. Without accurate demographic information and clear institutional plans, the true scope of these challenges remains invisible and under-addressed.

This bill represents an important step toward ensuring that pregnant and parenting students in Maryland's public higher education institutions have the institutional support necessary to remain enrolled, complete their degrees, and care for themselves and their families. For these reasons, MD ACOG respectfully urges the Committee's favorable report on Senate Bill 420.

For more information call:

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