



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 348 - Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – High–Risk Pregnancies –Communication After Discharge

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) opposes *Senate Bill 348 - Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – High–Risk Pregnancies Communication After Discharge*. The bill proposes changing the timeframe from when hospitals call the birthing parent from 48 to 72 hours in high-risk cases. This proposal would alter the implementation of the *Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024 (HB 1051/SB 1059)*.

ACNM appreciates the intent of the bill to address an implementation question experienced by some hospitals. However, we are deeply concerned that the bill will unravel the system of care built by the *Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024*. According to the Commonwealth Fund:

“While efforts are underway to improve clinical care at the time of birth, comprehensive solutions to prevent maternal deaths must ultimately involve health care systems, community-based birth and maternity care systems, policymaking, and clinical and social interventions before, during, **and after** pregnancy.”ⁱ

There are many risks faced by new birthing parents, including postpartum preeclampsia which can develop within a few days after birth even when blood pressure had been normal during pregnancy.ⁱⁱ Birthing parents who are impacted by a substance use disorder are also at high risk in experiencing severe symptoms of withdrawal which means contact with the healthcare system immediately after discharge is important.ⁱⁱⁱ

ACNM is committed to developing the infrastructure system to support effective and efficient postpartum care. We ask that the Committee not move forward on Senate Bill 348. Maryland is ranked 21st in our maternal mortality rate.^{iv} The healthcare community need more

time to work on implementation. We would be eager to work with other providers, hospitals, and local health departments to support implementation of the *Maternal Mental Health Act of 2024*.

If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2025/jul/maternal-mortality-united-states-2025>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.acog.org/womens-health/experts-and-stories/the-latest/3-conditions-to-watch-for-after-childbirth>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8490333/>

^{iv} <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2025/jul/maternal-mortality-united-states-2025>