



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 169 – Hospital – Emergency Medical Conditions - Procedures

Hearing Date: February 4, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 169 – Hospitals – Emergency Medical Conditions – Procedures*. The legislation codifies the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) into Maryland law.

EMTALA has been a critical tool in ensuring access to abortion and other lifesaving pregnancy care in hospitals across the country. When it is not enforced, we have seen a devastating impact on the lives of people who are supposed to be protected under the laws. For example, there have been deaths in Georgia and Texas from delays in providing abortion care in emergencies after those states implemented abortion bans.

In Maryland, we rely on enforcement of the federal EMTALA law to protect the health and safety of Marylanders. However, it is unclear how federal agencies will interpret and enforce EMTALA at this time. We cannot afford this risk; and we believe it is imperative that Maryland adopt its own EMTALA standards.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.