



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 891 – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Mental Health Conditions

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2026

**Position:** Support with Amendments

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The American College of Nurse Midwives – Maryland Affiliate (ACNM) strongly support *Senate Bill 892 – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations – Perinatal Mental Health Conditions*. ACNM is working with the sponsors and amendments to strengthen the bill’s underlying purpose.

Maryland needs to do more to improve the health outcomes of individuals with perinatal mental health conditions. According to the 2017 Report of the Task Force to Study Maternal Mental Health, one in seven individuals suffer from depression during pregnancy or in the 12-month postpartum period. However, half of these individuals are never treated because their conditions are never identified.<sup>1</sup>

SB 892 seeks to make meaningful improvements to perinatal mental health outcomes through system improvements in health insurance, our healthcare delivery system, and health professional’s knowledge base. The legislation builds upon the recommendations of the 2017 Task Force Report by using recent stakeholder input from a series of workgroup discussions this winter.

ACNM is working with the sponsors and stakeholders on consensus amendments to:

- Advance strategies to make perinatal mental health provider networks more robust in commercial plans as well as Medicaid;
- Align perinatal screening schedules with best practices; and
- Consider how to facilitate better communication from provider to patients; Mandates about communication are one strategy. Providers may need to customize communications to meet their patients’ particular needs.

We look forward to working on consensus amendments, and we ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/021600/021622/20170014e.pdf>