
Committee:	Health Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 158 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program
Hearing Date:	February 4, 2026
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 158 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program*. The bill creates a necessary sub-program for pregnant people who are recipients of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program who are at risk for greater pregnancy complications due to conditions like hypertension to diabetes.

Maternal health outcomes in Maryland continue to reflect deep racial, geographic, and socioeconomic inequities. The burden of severe complications, preventable deaths, and poor birth outcomes falls disproportionately on Black birthing people and communities with limited access to care. **The consequences of maternal health disparities are preventable.** Strengthening Medicaid coverage, improving continuity of care, and expanding access to evidence based services remain essential to closing these gaps. This pilot program would help those in our state who need it.

Marylanders deserve every chance possible to birth a child safely and healthily – and this program is crucial for addressing the maternal health crisis in our state. According to March of Dimes¹ 2025 Report Card, Maryland averages 21.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 births; 100.4 per 10,000 hospital deliveries face unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short or long-term health consequences; as well as an infant mortality rate of 5.6%.

As an organization dedicated to positive health outcomes of all our patients, Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports this legislation as it promotes the advancement of maternal health and health equity. Our state will only become stronger when we prioritize the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 158. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, erin.bradley@ppm.care.

¹ <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/maryland/report-card> – (National Center for Health Statistics, Natality data, 2024; National Center for Health Statistics, Mortality data, 2019-2023; HCUP Fast Stats. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). December 2024. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.) <https://datatools.ahrq.gov/hcup-fast-stats>.