

Committee: House Health Committee

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

Hearing Date: March 25, 2026

Position: Support

The Women's Law Center of Maryland 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.

The fate of federal enforcement of EMTALA is unclear. If federal agencies change their interpretation or enforcement of EMTALA, it would have devastating consequences of women's health across the country. Most states, including Maryland, do not have EMTALA provision codified in state law. We need the legal safety net provided by SB 447 given the current national landscape.

We ask for a favorable report on SB 169. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.