

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



HB1487 - Public Health – Baltimore City Mobile Infant and Maternal Health Pilot Program
House Health Committee
March 11, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1992 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to educate and promote meaningful child welfare reform. **CPMC urges a favorable report on HB1487 - Public Health – Baltimore City Mobile Infant and Maternal Health Pilot Program.**

Perinatal mental health conditions affect a significant number of Maryland families. Without early screening and appropriate care, these conditions can have profound and lasting effects on maternal wellbeing, infant development, family stability, and overall public health outcomes. Our coalition recognize the importance of addressing mental health indicators as way to help encourage maternal bonding and attachment in infancy as a tactic in preventing child maltreatment. Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are among the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Early screening is proven to improve detection, facilitate timely intervention, and reduce long-term negative outcomes for both parent and child.

Our coalition is in support of any expansion plans to provide sufficient mobile response and stabilization services across all of Maryland's jurisdictions. Our state has been in the midst of a foster care placement crisis, which has had decades of challenges with no sustainable solutions. Each year, infants, children, and youth with complex and high intensity behavioral health and/or developmental or medical complexity are left in limbo with nowhere to go, relying on long-term hospital and emergency room stays after discharge. Access to mobile crisis and stabilization can help struggling families avoid foster care. Directly providing the care at their homes reduces the number of out-of-home placements by providing access to emergency health professionals to respond to crisis situations and connect families to community resources to maintain stabilization efforts.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report HB1487 - Public Health – Baltimore City Mobile Infant and Maternal Health Pilot Program.**¹

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include – American Academy of Pediatrics - MD Chapter, Center of Hope, Child Justice, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA - Baltimore County), The Family Tree, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Alliance for Children, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers – MD (NASW), the State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN), and individual members of the coalition.