



Committee: House Health Committee

Bill: House Bill 1389 – Public Health – Female Genital Mutilation

Hearing Date: March 10, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 1389 – Public Health – Female Genital Mutilation*. This bill protects women and girls in Maryland by establishing criminal prohibitions against female genital mutilation (FGM) and ensuring that those who perform or facilitate this practice are held accountable.

The D.C. metropolitan area ranks second in the United States for the number of women and girls at risk for FGM.¹ This procedure has no health benefits and causes severe, lasting harm. The World Health Organization recognizes this as a violation of human rights of girls and women. Complications can include severe pain, excessive bleeding, infections, obstetric complications, and lasting psychological trauma including PTSD.²

ACNM members are dedicated to protecting women and girls from harm. The need for this legislation is clear; Maryland statute must ensure the state can investigate and prosecute cases of FGM independently. Beyond legal accountability, it is essential for health care providers to have adequate training to support FGM survivors. The Journal of Global Health notes that many providers lack this training, which can result in re-traumatization and inadequate care.³ This bill creates the legal foundation upon which provider education and survivor support initiatives can be built.

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.

¹ <https://endfgmnetwork.org/blog/third-times-a-charm-washington-d-c-passes-bill-to-ban-fgm-c/#:~:text=The%20DC%20Metropolitan%20area%20ranks,C%2C%20with%20estimates%20over%2051%2C000.>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>

³ <https://jogh.org/2022/jogh-12-03059>