



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 183

Title: Health Insurance – Health Benefit Plans – Special Enrollment Period for
Pregnancy

Date: February 12, 2020

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 183 – Health Insurance – Health Benefit Plans – Special Enrollment Period for Pregnancy*. The bill changes the way that individuals verify that they are pregnant when applying for insurance coverage in a special enrollment period. Instead of submitting a form from a health care practitioner, the individual will attest to being pregnant.

The requirement to verify pregnancy will delay enrollment in coverage for pregnant individuals. By replacing that requirement with an attestation requirement, it will reduce delays in coverage and gaps in prenatal care. Insurers still have the ability to determine if someone is pregnant through claims data.

ACNM supported the original legislation to create the special enrollment period for pregnant individuals. We think this legislation is an important follow-up measure to make this program more implementable.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.