



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 777 – Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund
Hearing Date: February 24, 2021
Position: Support with Technical Amendments

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports with technical amendments *Senate Bill 777 – Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund*. This bill would alter the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination Services Grant Program fund to make grants available to federally qualified health centers, hospitals, and certain providers to increase access and funding to prenatal care.

As a network of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), Maryland Community Health System is focused on serving patients who are uninsured or have coverage through Medicaid or Medicare. Every day, our health centers see patients who have delayed seeking prenatal care because they did not have insurance coverage. They are at higher risk for conditions such as gestational diabetes, preterm births, and low birthweight newborns. We support the legislation because not all low-income pregnant women qualify for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. The legislation addresses the coverage gap by creating a grant program that will cover prenatal services.

We request a technical amendment that clarifies that prenatal services could include behavioral health and oral health services. This amendment will ensure providers can treat all health conditions that affect the outcome of a pregnancy.

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