



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

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) 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 for prenatal care.

Increasing access to prenatal care is incredibly important for the health and safety of pregnant women and babies. By allowing women and providers to identify and address health problems and behaviors that may cause particular harm during early fetal development, first-trimester prenatal care can lead to improved outcomes. While health promotion and access to assessment and treatment of health risks is needed by all pregnant women, prenatal care can be particularly important for low-income women who may lack ongoing preventative health care prior to pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

We are working with the bill sponsor on a technical amendment to clarify that prenatal providers include advanced practice registered nurses. 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](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/05/3332-promoting-access-to-prenatal-care-report.pdf>