



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 19, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1349 – *Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1349 **with the amendments adopted by the Senate.**

House Bill 1349 expands the current Prenatal and Infant Care grant program to include grant funding for the provision of prenatal care services to low-income residents who do not otherwise have access to Medicaid or other health care services. The bill reflects the recommendations included in the final report of the Maternal and Child Health Task Force created by the General Assembly to comprehensively assess and identify policies and programs to address maternal and child health disparities. It also is reflected in the recommendations of the Senate President's Advisory Group on Equity and Inclusion.

This legislation is a priority of the above-named organizations and they look forward to working with the sponsor and members of the Committee to address the need to enhance birth outcomes and reduce unnecessary health disparities and inequities for both maternal and child health. To that end, the above-named organizations worked with the Senate sponsor to draft amendments that clarified and refined various provisions of the bill as introduced. The amended bill, passed by the Senate, provides a well-defined framework for the proposed grant program. Passage of this legislation will provide access to needed prenatal care for uninsured women and will also provide a framework for evaluating how to further expand access based on the findings and outcomes of the grant program. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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