



*MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.*

HB 1080 MD Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act)  
House Health & Government Operations Committee March 2, 2022

FAVORABLE

**Approximately 100,000 women in Maryland are currently ineligible for prenatal care through Medicaid due to immigration status.**

**The additional coverage of prenatal and postpartum care in this bill** will be transformative in the lives of many young Marylander, and is expected to **reduce years and decades of avoidable health and social harms** as these children grow into adults.

As these children age, the rates of somatic and behavioral health problems, **including substance-related problems**, will be reduced.

Not only will this improve the quality of life of all Marylanders, but the state would benefit financially as well.

We urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,  
Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee