



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



ACOG

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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly
The Honorable Shelly Hettleman

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 30, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 806 – *Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health – Health Care and Dental Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants – Report*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 806.

Senate Bill 806, as amended by the Senate, requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the Maryland Department of Health to develop a report comparing options for offering affordable health and dental care coverage to State residents who are ineligible for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children’s Health Program, or qualified health plans through the Health Benefit Exchange, due to the individual’s immigration status.

The Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation that expands Medicaid coverage to all pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status (“Healthy Babies Equity Act”). While the Healthy Babies Equity Act will dramatically increase the health outcomes of both mother and baby, there is a significant need to expand access to Medicaid and other affordable health and dental care to all immigrants, not just mothers and babies. The report required by Senate Bill 806 will provide valuable data that compares costs to the state; the impact on the uninsured; potential benefit designs; and implementation considerations for options for offering affordable care to immigrants who are now not eligible for coverage. The report will assist legislators to craft legislation that will effectively provide access to affordable healthcare coverage, regardless of immigration status. A favorable report is requested.