



Senate Education and Health

January 16, 2025

**Testimony for SB 831**

**Pregnant individuals; DMAS to seek federal authority to implement presumptive eligibility.**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports SB831 which would allow pregnant persons to have immediate access to prenatal care avoiding the delay caused by time required for Medicaid paperwork processing. Given the fact that Virginia is one of ten states where more than two-thirds of counties are in a maternity desert and the fact that Virginia is ranked 40th for maternal mortality rate, interventions such as early access to health care seem prudent.