



HB1101 Health – Mifepristone – Administration
Presented to the Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass and
Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 8, 2019 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: OPPOSE

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges the House health and Government Operations Committee an unfavorable report on HB1101 Health – Mifepristone – Administration**, Delegate Daniel Cox.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights and justice. We strive to ensure every childbearing individual has the freedom to decide if, when and how to form one's family. This includes the right to access abortion care, as well as the choice of method where appropriate. HB1101 attempts to restrict access to early abortion by making Mifepristone, a drug taken in combination with Misoprostol, much harder for patients to access through their healthcare providers.

HB1101 seeks to put into Maryland law regulations surrounding the administration of medication abortion. This is unnecessary, as clinics that offer medication do so in compliance with existing federal regulations. Since federal regulations may change as the field reproductive medicine evolves, it is a waste of resources to codify practices that are subject to change. HB1101 also seeks a mandatory reporting requirement of providers regarding the statistical administration of medication abortion to patients. In order to ensure each individual has fair and confidential access to abortion care, it is vital that the state oppose bills like HB1101 - legislation which aims to stigmatize, burden abortion care providers, and adversely affect the patients that serve.

Reporting requirements may be beneficial for understanding public health issues and how they are addressed; however, abortion care reporting must have safeguards to protect the right to privacy of patients as well as medical providers. Mandating disciplinary action against physicians for not making the reports is a tactic to scare local practitioners from offering the full range of reproductive healthcare for the families they serve as failure to comply can be publicly sensationalized. With the current national negative rhetoric fueled by anti-choice activists promoting misinformation about abortion care and calling for the criminalization of patients and providers, mandating reporting of this nature risks a chilling effect among patients hesitate to seek care as well as reduce access to care by providers with safety concerns in the communities in which they practice. Just last month, a family planning clinic was vandalized by arson in Columbia, Missouri – an example of how attacking the right to reproductive healthcare remains a huge issue in our country. According to the National Abortion Federation, which tracks violence against abortion care providers, there has been an increase since 2017 in threatening and violent incidents that have ranged from criminal trespass to the first attempted clinic bombing in years.

HB1101 is an attempt to limit access to what is an overwhelmingly safe method of abortion care. For these reasons, **NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges an unfavourable report on HB1101**. Thank you for your time and consideration.