



HB1179 - Public Health - Unborn Human Beings and Infants (Humane Disposition of Human Remains Act)
Presented to the Hon. Shane Pendergrass and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee
March 13, 2020 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: OPPOSE

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges the House Health and Governments Operations Committee an **unfavorable report on HB1179 Public Health- Unborn Human Beings and Infants (Humane Disposition of Human Remains Act)**, sponsored by Delegate Daniel Cox.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. As part of our efforts to protect the reproductive freedom for all Marylanders, we work to ensure all individuals have the right to access a safe and legal abortion without shame. The goal of HB1179 is to enforce a burial of the “bodily remains” which will result in the further stigmatization of abortion care.

HB1179 requires there to be a burial or cremation of the products of conception from an abortion procedure, referred to in the bill as the “unborn human being.” Unfortunately, the State of Indiana has recently passed similar legislation. The ACLU of Indiana states the fetal remains bill “requires the state department of health to include on a form that after a medication abortion (common during the first trimester) that a pregnant woman may place remains in a sealed container and return the health care provider or abortion clinic for disposition by interment or cremation.”¹ Both Indiana’s anti-abortion law and HB1179 are examples of targeted regulations of abortion providers (TRAP).² HB1179 offers inaccurate presentation of the nature of abortion care by promoting a pro-life discourse to advance societal humiliation of those seeking abortion care. By portraying abortion care as a medical event that should be mourned, HB1179 falsely expresses “post-abortion syndrome” as a mental disorder in result of abortion. However, the vast majority of women [\(95%\) reporting feeling relief after having an abortion and say it was the right decision for them.](#)³

Unsurprisingly, HB0793 uses the language “unborn human being,” which it defines as “the offspring of human beings from conception until birth.” Our organization is deeply concerned about passing legislation that *explicitly* establishes personhood for a fertilized egg, embryo, and fetus. This is a direct assault on the fundamental holding of *Roe v. Wade*, and endowing such personhood inescapably diminishes the personhood of the woman, including her rights to liberty, bodily autonomy, and medical decision-making.

We support all Marylander’s right to full body autonomy without unnecessary regulations or laws that punish certain pregnancy decision-making. For these reasons, **NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges an unfavorable report on HB1179.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ Brown L. “Fetal Remains SB299.” *ACLU of Indiana*. 2020. <https://www.aclu-in.org/en/legislation/fetal-remains-sb-299>

² “TRAP Laws.” *NARAL Pro-Choice America*. 2020. <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/issue/trap-laws/>

³ The Turnaway Study. *ANSIRH*. <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study>