



# 2016 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW & 2017 SESSION STATUS

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland



NARAL  
Pro-Choice Maryland

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland was established in 1981 to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive options, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children and choosing legal abortion.



# NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland in Annapolis



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## 2016 ANTI-CHOICE BILLS & ACTIONS

- HJ0007 – Personhood Resolution
- HB0603 & SB0749 – 20-week Abortion Ban
- SB0626 – Ultrasound Requirements
- SB0793 – Abortion Reporting
- HB1357 – Abortion Coverage Ban
- Budget Amendment to Defund Abortion Coverage





# HJ0007 – PERSONHOOD RESOLUTION

- “Personhood” is a new tactic to ban abortion by redefining the legal concept of “personhood” to say that life begins when an egg is fertilized, granting legal rights to fertilized eggs
- “Personhood” measures would outlaw abortion. They could also lead to bans on many forms of birth control, stem-cell research, and in-vitro fertilization.
- This was a resolution, not a bill, and would not change the law, but would serve as a statement of support for the “personhood” movement and against *Roe v. Wade*.
- Sponsor: Del. Susan McCommas
- **DEFEATED** in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee



# HB0603 & SB0749 – 20-WEEK ABORTION BANS

- 20-week abortion bans would make abortion illegal before viability, which is unconstitutional
- Only 1.2% of abortions occur after 20 weeks, and often occur after discovering medical complications to the life or health of the mother, fetus, or both.
- During pregnancy, typical diagnostic testing for birth defects occurs just before or at 20 weeks of gestation.
- Sponsors: Del. Kathy Afzali & Sen. Justin Ready
- **DEFEATED** in the House Health & Government Operations Committee & **DEFEATED** in the Senate Finance Committee



# SB0626 – ULTRASOUND REQUIREMENTS

- This bill wrongly implies that Marylanders are not making informed decisions when terminating a pregnancy.
- Mandating that the medical provider offer a patient the opportunity to view an ultrasound image prior to an abortion procedure is not related to principles of informed consent.
- We support ultrasound procedures when requested by the woman or recommended by her doctor – not when mandated by the government
- Sponsor: Sen. Bryan Simonaire
- **DEFEATED** in the Senate Finance Committee



# SB0793 – ABORTION REPORTING

- This legislation would require the reporting of all abortions performed in the State of Maryland.
- The bill does not keep medical providers information confidential, increasing the risk of anti-choice harassment and violence against them
- Burdens providers with excessive paperwork that takes staff time and resources away from delivering actual patient care
- Sponsor: Sen. Robert Cassilly
- **DEFEATED** in the Senate Finance Committee





# HB1357 – ABORTION COVERAGE BAN

- Would eliminate state funding to pay for abortion care in instances where there is medical certainty that the fetus is affected by genetic defect or serious deformity or abnormality, or a substantial risk that continuation of the pregnancy could have a serious and adverse effect on the woman's present or future physical or mental health.
- Marylanders on state insurance plans should not be denied access to basic reproductive-health services simply because they receive their health insurance coverage through the state
- Sponsor: Del. Glen Glass
- **DEFEATED** in the House Appropriations Committee



# BUDGET AMENDMENT TO DEFUND ABORTION COVERAGE

- An amendment on the floor to defund abortion coverage for low-income women if the abortion is because of a mental health issue
- Segregates mental health from physical health and forces low-income women to continue a pregnancy that is harmful to their mental health
- Proposed By: Del. Deborah Rey
- Del. Kirill Reznik, Del. Shelly Hettleman, and Del. Sandy Rosenberg spoke out on the floor against this amendment
- **DEFEATED** on the House floor



## 2016 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

HB1005 & SB0848 – Maryland Contraceptive Equity Act of 2016

HB0646 & SB0472 – Rape Survivor Family Protection Act

HB0072 – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program

HB1318 & SB0929 – Network Access Standards and Provider Network Directories



# HB1005 & SB0848 – MARYLAND CONTRACEPTIVE EQUITY ACT OF 2016

- Prohibit most co-payments for contraception
- Eliminate pre-authorization requirements to prevent delays in accessing contraception
- Require insurers to cover 6 months of contraception at a time
- Expand access by requiring coverage without a prescription all FDA-approved over-the-counter contraception
- Provide contraceptive equity for men with coverage of vasectomies
- Sponsors: Del. Ariana Kelly & Sen. Dolores Kelley
- **PASSED** in the House(103-30) and in the Senate (37-8)



# HB0646 & SB0472 – RAPE SURVIVOR FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

- Since the pro-choice community honors pregnancy is all its complexity, we understand and respect pregnancy-decision making. The possibility of a rapist asserting his parental rights informs the decision of whether a survivor will terminate the pregnancy or carry to term to parent or place the child for adoption
- Sponsors: Del. Kathleen Dumais & Sen. Jamie Raskin
- Passed in the House (unanimous vote on the House floor); **FAILED** in the Senate



# HB0072 – SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS PROGRAM

- Required the State Board of Education and specified nonpublic schools to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education relating to the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault.
- Sponsor: Del. Eric Luedtke
- **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate





# HB1318 & SB0929 – NETWORK ACCESS STANDARDS AND PROVIDER NETWORK DIRECTORIES

- Requires that health insurance carriers must ensure all enrollees have access to providers for covered services without unreasonable travel or delay.
- Requires carriers to supply an accurate provider directory with comprehensive information on hospitals, facilities, and participating providers, including whether they are accepting new patients.
- Sponsors: Del. Ariana Kelly & Sen. Katherine Klausmeier
- **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate



# OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HB0011 & SB0001 – Health Insurance Coverage of In Vitro Fertilization
  - Sponsors: Del. Teri Hill & Sen. Cheryl Kagan
  - **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate
- HB0180 & SB0856 – HIV Testing During Pregnancy
  - Sponsors: Del. Chris West & Sen. Delores Kelley
  - **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate
- HB0216 & SB0289 – Minor’s Consent to Preventative Care
  - Sponsors: Del. Sheree Sample-Hughes & Sen. Brian Feldman
  - **FAILED** in the Health & Government Operations Committee and **FAILED** in the Finance Committee
- HB1178 & SB0868 – HPV Vaccine
  - Sponsors: Del. Angela Angel & Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
  - **FAILED** in the Ways & Means Committee and **FAILED** in the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee



# OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HB0740 & SB0485 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program
  - Sponsors: Del. Ariana Kelly & Sen. Catherine Pugh
  - Amended to become a task force and **PASSED** the House and the Senate
- HB0580 & SB0472 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act
  - Sponsors: Del. Luke Clippinger & Sen. Catherine Pugh
  - **PASSED** the House and **FAILED** in the Senate
- HB1003 & SB0481 – Equal Pay for Equal Work
  - Sponsors: Del. Luke Clippinger & Sen. Catherine Pugh
  - **PASSED** the House and **FAILED** in the Senate



# OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HB 1180 & SB 946 – Correctional Services Restrictive Housing Report
  - Sponsors: Del. Jill Carter & Sen. Lisa Gladden
  - **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate
- HB1634 & SB1072 – Juveniles Restraint and Search Limitations
  - Sponsors: Del. Jay Jalisi & Sen. Anthony Muse
  - Amended into a Task Force and **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate
- HB0429 – Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy
  - Sponsor: Del. Edith Patterson
  - **PASSED** in the House and in the Senate



# 2017 MGA BILLS - SUPPORT

## **HB1/SB230** LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – MARYLAND HEALTHY WORKING FAMILIES ACT

- Sponsors: Del. Clippinger/Sen. Middleton
- No hearings set yet –to be heard in House Economic Matters and Senate Finance Committees

Requiring employers that employ 15 or more employees to provide employees with earned sick and safe leave that is paid at the same wage rate as the employee normally earns; requiring employers with 14 or fewer employees to provide an employee with unpaid earned sick and safe leave; providing for the manner in which earned sick and safe leave is accrued; authorizing an employee to work additional hours or trade shifts with another employee under specified circumstances; applying the Act prospectively; etc.



# **HB95 SALES AND USE TAX - HYGIENIC AIDS**

## **– EXEMPTION**

- Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – Comptroller)
- House Ways & Means hearing 2/01 at 2:30 pm
- Exempting specified feminine hygiene products from the sales and use tax.

11-211-(c)(2) sanitary [napkins or] PADS, tampons, MENSTRUAL SPONGES, MENSTRUAL CUPS, OR OTHER SIMILAR FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS.





# **HB214 DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT – CONDITIONS RELATED TO PREGNANCY OR CHILDBIRTH**

- Sponsor: Del. Morales
- House Economic Matters, 1/31 at 1:00 p.m.
- Requiring employers to make reasonable accommodations for employees and applicants for employment who have known limitations due to conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth; establishing a rebuttable presumption that a specified accommodation is not an undue hardship if the employer would provide it to an employee with a disability; requiring the Commission on Civil Rights to develop specified courses and public education programs regarding specified rights and responsibilities; etc.



## SB96 HEALTH INSURANCE - COVERAGE FOR FERTILITY AWARENESS-BASED METHODS

- Sponsor: Sen. Reilly
- Senate Finance Committee hearing 2/1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Requiring specified insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for instruction by a health care practitioner on fertility awareness–based methods; prohibiting the insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from applying a copayment, coinsurance requirement, or deductible to coverage for the instruction on fertility awareness–based methods, except with respect to a specified grandfathered exception; etc.



# **SB232 EDUCATION – PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS – ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Sponsor: Sen. Manno
- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
- Hearing is 2/1 at 2:00 p.m.
- Specifying that a student's absence from school due to the student's pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful absence; requiring each county board of education to develop a written attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that meets specified requirements; etc.



## 2017 BILLS - MONITORING

### **SB27 Child Abuse and Neglect - Substance-Exposed Newborns - Reporting**

- Chair, Judicial Proceeding Committee  
(emergency bill per request by the governor)
- Hearing 1/24 at 1:00 p.m.
- Repealing specified provisions exempting a health care practitioner from making a specified report regarding a substance-exposed newborn under specified circumstances; and making the Act an emergency measure.



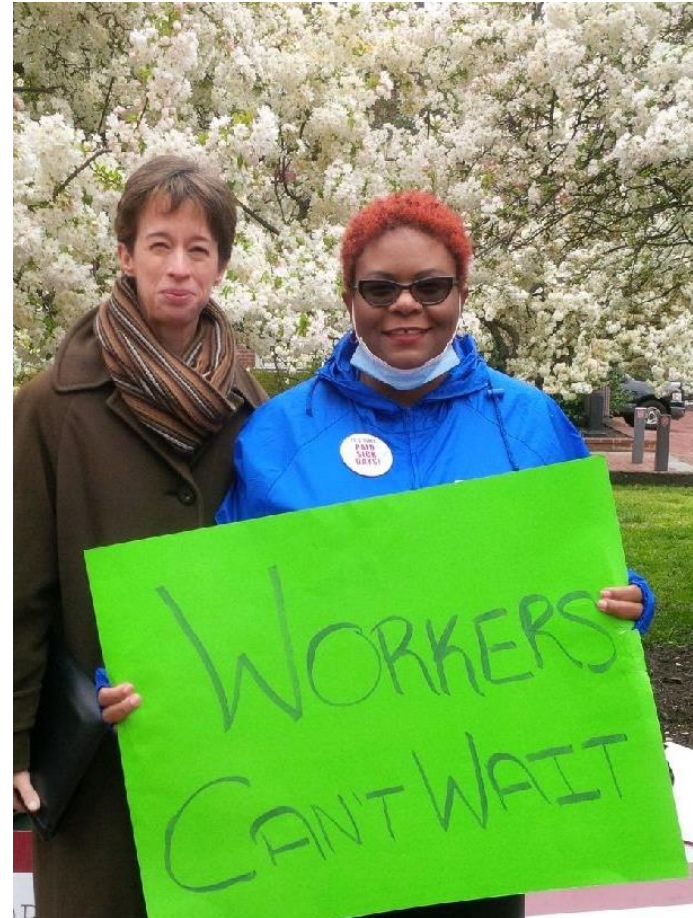
# LEGISLATIVE TRACKING ONLINE

- Each session, we update our online bill tracker so that you can follow which bills we are publicly supporting or opposing
- The tracker lists the sponsors and the current location of the bill
- There are links to the bill text and to our written testimony on the bill.

[www.prochoicemd.org/in-our-state/billwatch.shtml](http://www.prochoicemd.org/in-our-state/billwatch.shtml)



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK!



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