



Maryland 2019 Pro-Choice

Legislative Agenda



Defeat Anti-Abortion Bills

- DEFEATED** HB0630 *Abortion – Reporting Requirements* would mandate physicians, hospitals, and institutions providing abortion care to report on procedures and certain detailed demographic patient information to the Maryland Department of Health. Noncompliance would result in disciplinary action and possible fines.
- DEFEATED** HB0964 *Abortion Sought by Minors – Parent or Guardian Consent* would require verbal or written consent from a parent or guardian of a minor seeking abortion care. A minor that is unable or unwilling to get this consent would need to seek a judicial bypass court order. Maryland currently requires a physician to bypass parental notification where appropriate.
- DEFEATED** HB1075 *Informed Consent (Woman’s Right to Know Act)* would prohibit a physician from providing abortion care unless the patient first receives state mandated information, using bill language biased against abortion. A 24-hour waiting period and ultrasound would also be required,
- DEFEATED** HB1101 *Mifepristone – Administration* requiring that medication abortion be provided by or under the supervision of a physician who can also provide surgical interventions as well as blood transfusions. Physicians must also report the number of administrations of Mifepristone as a state mandated reporting requirement. Violations would result in a misdemeanor charge.
- DEFEATED** HB1151 *Abortion - 24-Hour Waiting Period* would prohibit an individual from seeking abortion care before 24 hours have passed since requesting abortion care from a physician.
- DEFEATED** HB1193 *Abortion - Facility Requirements* would require each facility in Maryland that performs surgical abortion care services to meet state ambulatory surgical facility standards.
- DEFEATED** HB1195 *Maryland Fetal Heartbeat Protection Act*, HB0978/SB1008 *Detection of Fetal Heartbeat (Keep Our Hearts Beating Act)*, and HB0933 *Abortion – Detection of Fetal Heartbeat* would prohibit a physician from providing abortion care to a patient before determining whether the fetus has a detectable heartbeat or if a heartbeat is detected. Abortion care cannot be provided if a heartbeat is detected, unless it is to save the life of the patient. These bills also mandated felony charges, imprisonment, or fines if violated.
- DEFEATED** HB0975/SB0907 *Pain Capable Unborn Child Protections Act* attempted to ban surgical abortions after 20 weeks while establishing language to legalize fetal personhood.
- DEFEATED** HB1152 *Interstate Human Trafficking of Minors Prohibition Act* would require law enforcement or state officials to report a pregnancy of a minor and restricts appropriations of state funds to be used for abortion care services and expenses for a trafficked minor who is not a resident of the state.

Promote Healthy Pregnancy Outcomes

- PASSED** HB0127/SB0036 *Special Enrollment Period for Pregnancy* establishes, for health benefits plans and carriers, a 90-day special health insurance enrollment period beginning on the date a pregnancy is confirmed by a health care practitioner.
- PASSED** HB0520/SB0406 *Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination - Grant Funding and Task Force* establishes \$100,000 within the annual budget for the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination Services Grant Program Fund.
- PASSED** HB0583/SB0356 *Maternal Mortality Review Program - Reporting Requirement* requires the Maternal Mortality Review Program and Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to gather data on changes in maternal mortality rate by race and ethnicity with recommendations to reduce disparities.

PASSED HB0745/SB0809 *Restrictive Housing – Pregnant Inmates* prohibits pregnant inmates or detainees and those in the post-pregnancy recovery period from being placed involuntarily into restrictive housing, including medical isolation, for 22 hours or more each day, also known as solitary confinement.

PASSED HB0145/SB0301 *Patient Bill of Rights* requires hospitals to noticeably post and provide patients with a patient's bill of rights, which include, but are not limited to, accessing care in safe environments, being free from restraints, seclusion, and discrimination, and receiving consideration, respectful, and compassionate care.

Advance Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

PASSED HB0519/SB0697 *Parentage and Adoption* redefines parentage to include children born from assisted reproductive methods or added to a family via adoption, and expands parentage to include those who co-parent and have not participated in a legal marriage ceremony.

PASSED HB0827/SB0688 *Immunity, Services, and Investigations (Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019)* establishes a Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant to create child advocacy centers in which law enforcement that suspect a child has been a victim of sex trafficking can refer the youth to appropriate services that include access to timely sexual and reproductive healthcare.

PASSED HB1272/SB0904 *Family Planning Program – Funding* prohibits the Maryland Department of Health from accepting federal funding under Title X if the program excludes certain family planning providers and does not require all funded clinics to openly discuss or provide a broad range of acceptable and effective medically approved family planning methods and services, including information and referral to abortion care. Pursuant to law passed in 2017, the state will reimburse family planning providers services for patients that would have been eligible for federal funding such as Title X.

PASSED HB0166 *Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for 15)* raises minimum wage in Maryland to \$15 per hour by 2025 for businesses with 15 or more employees, giving working families the financial stability to access healthcare and services necessary to form and care for their families.

PASSED HB0633/SB0396 *Legal Representation Fund for Title IX Proceedings – Established* institutes a non-lapsing fund in which \$250,000 is appropriated to be used for costs and attorney's fees for students in need for representation in Title IX cases where there have been allegations of rape or harassment.

Other Legislation Introduced to Watch for in 2020

FAILED HB0295/SB0848 *Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools - Discrimination Prohibition* would have prohibited nonpublic elementary or secondary schools from receiving state funding from refusing the enrollment of, or to expel, withhold privileges from, or discriminate against any current or prospective student or staff member on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, material status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Penalizing a student as well as parents or guardians who file complaints of discrimination is also prohibited. Sex discrimination includes pregnant and parenting individuals.

FAILED HB1107/SB0518 *Discrimination in Employment – Pregnancy and Childbirth* would have expanded existing pregnancy discrimination laws to include not just women with pregnancy-related disabilities, but also women with healthy pregnancies who also need reasonable accommodations.

FAILED HB1201/SB0904 *Task Force on Educations Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Student in High School and GED Programs* would have created a three-year task force to identify the barriers for pregnant and parenting students in obtaining their high school diplomas, develop data collection systems to track education outcomes by school district, and recommend strategies to increase their graduation rates.

FAILED HB 341/SB 500 *Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2019)* would have established a private sector family and medical leave insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take unpaid leave to care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious medical condition, or a family member's military deployment.