



**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1364 – Health Care Freedom of Conscience Act

**Hearing:** March 11, 2022

**Position:** Oppose

---

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) opposes *House Bill 1364 - Health Care Freedom of Conscience Act*. The bill would: 1) allow hospitals and other facilities to refuse to provide or refer for health care services to which they have a religious, moral, or ethical objection; and 2) allow any insurers to decline to cover *any* service because of a moral objection. ACNM believes that health care facilities have an obligation to provide or refer for needed health care services; and that payors should not be able to impose their own moral beliefs on the insurance coverage design. All Marylanders have the right to access to needed health care services such as contraception, fertility treatment, abortion care, and gender-affirming care. The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM is opposed to legislation designed to interfere with an individual’s autonomy in making reproductive health decisions. In 2019 after state legislatures introduced a record-breaking number of anti-reproductive health measures, ACNM – National issued a statement that “reaffirms its commitment to individual patient autonomy across the spectrum of reproductive health, including abortion.”<sup>i</sup> Therefore, we oppose this legislation and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

---

<sup>i</sup><https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007327/ACNM%20Opposition%20Statement%20to%20Threats%20to%20Abortion%20Care%20March%202019.pdf>