

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 54

**Title:** Criminal Law – Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal

**Hearing:** February 1, 2023

**Position:** Support

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *Senate Bill 54 – Criminal Law – Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal* to repeal the crime of unnatural or perverted sexual practice from the Maryland Code.

This law has been used to criminalize consensual intimacy among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) adults and stands in direct opposition to the 2003 Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, in which the Court held that the Texas statute making it a crime for two persons of the same sex to engage in certain intimate sexual conduct was unconstitutional. As a health care provider to many members of the LGBTQIA+ community, we support any legislation that will protect the rights and safety of our patients. Laws such as the one in this bill have been used to intimidate LGBTQIA+ individuals, discriminate against their constitutional rights to privacy and autonomy, and unnecessarily criminalize acts between consenting adults.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).