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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations

**Bill number:** HB 858-- Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period

**Hearing Date:** March 15, 2024

**Position:** Oppose

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland strongly opposes House Bill 858 – Health- Ultrasound and Waiting Period. The bill would impose a waiting period for abortion care services. A patient must wait 24-hours after an ultrasound for abortion care. Patients who live at least 100 miles away would have to wait two hours.

There is no clinical basis for imposing a waiting period after an ultrasound for any health care service, including abortion care. Thus, the bill violates Health General § 20-209 which prohibits restrictions that are inconsistent with established medical standards.

We ask for unfavorable report. This bill would restrict access to abortion care for individuals who face challenges with transportation, taking time off work, or arranging child care. If we can provide any further information, please contact Erin Bradley at [Erin.Bradley@ppm.care](mailto:Erin.Bradley@ppm.care) or (443) 604-3544.