



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Vice Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

I would like to express my strong opposition to *House Bill 858 - Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period*.

The right to reproductive healthcare is under threat nationwide. HB858 is one part of the long string of attacks and restrictive legislation that have emerged in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision. We have seen this in other States, and it is concerning to see it here in Maryland.

HB858 prohibits a medical provider from performing or inducing an abortion within twenty-four hours after receiving an ultrasound. This forced waiting period eliminates the ability to receive abortion care without delay, creating an unnecessary barrier and failing to protect the best interests of the patient. While reproductive healthcare should be accessible to all, as soon as they need it, regardless of their situation, it is important to note that forced waiting periods often disproportionately affect working class families who may already have struggled to get time off work or childcare coverage to receive the much needed healthcare they were seeking.

The relationship between providers and patients must be free from interference. In a time where abortion rights are under attack nationwide, we must not allow Maryland to take a step back. I strongly urge this committee to oppose *House Bill 858 - Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone  
Member of Congress