



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 858 – Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Waiting Period

Hearing Date: March 15, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) opposes *House Bill 858 – Health – Abortion – Ultrasound – Waiting Period*. The bill requires abortion providers to use transvaginal ultrasound before providing abortion care. The bill also imposes a 24-hour waiting period on most people seeking abortion care, with a 2-hour waiting period for people living further than 100 miles away.

ACNM supports bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom for all people. This bill would significantly limit access to abortion services for people without resources, transportation, or ability to take more time away from work or family obligations. Furthermore, the transvaginal ultrasound requirement is invasive and potentially traumatic for some patients.

We ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.