



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony in Support of HB372 - Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures

To: Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair,  
and Members of the House Health Committee  
From: Janice Bird, MD  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland Health Care Advocacy Team  
Date: February 11, 2026

I am Janice Bird, MD, representing myself both as a physician and as a person of faith. I am speaking on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland. We urge you to **SUPPORT HB 372 -Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures**. As an obstetrician/gynecologist (now retired after 34 years of practice), I have experienced how abortion care can be lifesaving. It is not a frequent occurrence, but can occur when the life, health and future fertility of the pregnant patient may be significantly compromised by infection and blood loss if not immediately treated with an abortion.

The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) was passed by the US Congress in 1986 to ensure patient access to emergency medical care. EMTALA also prevented patient dumping, a practice where private hospitals would transfer uninsured patients to public hospitals (without consideration of their medical condition, or stability), solely for financial reasons.

With the current climate of uncertainty in the medical field, **HB 372** would apply to all pregnant patients presenting to an emergency department of a hospital and would allow doctors to determine whether the patient has an emergency pregnancy-related medical condition and provide treatment—including the termination of a pregnancy when medically necessary—to stabilize the patient.

As people of faith, my fellow Unitarian Universalists and I are called to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, and to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We see health care as a right for all human beings. Our faith recognizes a universal human need for safe and dignified health care, without exception, especially for reproductive health care. It is the moral, compassionate, right, smart, and safe thing to do for Maryland.

Therefore, we at UULM-MD urge you to vote yes to **SUPPORT HB 372 - Hospitals - Emergency Pregnancy-Related Medical Conditions - Procedures**.

Sincerely,

*Janice Bird, MD*

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland Health Care Advocacy Team

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

[www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org) [info@uulmmd.org](mailto:info@uulmmd.org) [www.facebook.com/uulmmd](http://www.facebook.com/uulmmd) [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](http://www.Twitter.com/uulmmd)

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

[www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org) [info@uulmmd.org](mailto:info@uulmmd.org) [www.facebook.com/uulmmd](http://www.facebook.com/uulmmd) [www.Twitter.com/uulmmd](http://www.Twitter.com/uulmmd)