

Oppose

**House Bill 1179 – Unborn Human Beings and Infants
(Human Disposition of Human Remains Act)**

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 13, 2020

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) opposes *House Bill 1179 – Unborn Human Beings and Infants (Humane Disposition of Human Remains Act)*. The bill would require that parent arrange for the final disposition of the remains from the ending of a pregnancy through a funeral director or health care facility.

PPM opposes this bill because it is designed to intimidate and shame women who seek to terminate their pregnancies through an abortion. It would also subject women who have miscarriages to a traumatic process. The bill proposes the following provisions without any medical justification:

- Require the disposition of remains of the ending of a pregnancy if occurring while the pregnant woman is a health care facility. This would apply to a pregnancy at any stage, even early pregnancies;
- Require women to arrange for the final disposition of remains through: 1) Internment in an earth burial, mausoleum entombment, and niche or columbarium internment; or 2) cremation;
- Before the internment of remains could occur, a local health officer would have to issue a permit. A funeral director would have to be involved.
- Before the cremation of remains could occur, the medical examiner would have to authorize the final disposition; and
- For miscarriages, the woman could arrange for a donation under the Maryland Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. Otherwise, her only other options are for internment or cremation.

PPM asks for an unfavorable report on HB 1179.