
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 1109
Title:	Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Waiting Period
Hearing:	March 19, 2021
Position:	Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *HB 1109 – Health Ultrasound and Waiting Period*. This bill prohibits a physician from providing an abortion within 24 hours of performing an ultrasound. The waiting period is reduced to 2 hours if the woman resides at least 100 miles from the provider. There is an exception for cases of rape or incest, but only when the rape or incest is reported to law enforcement.

PPM opposes this bill because it interferes with access to abortion services. There are no clinical reasons for imposing a waiting period. The waiting period is designed solely to discourage individuals from seeking care. Under the bill, most individuals would have to go to the provider twice -once for the ultrasound and again for abortion services. This can be particularly challenging for individuals facing transportation barriers or cannot afford to take the time off of work.

The bill's provisions regarding cases of rape and incest are particularly problematic. The waiting period cannot be waived unless the case has been reported to law enforcement. Thus, the bill could further traumatize the individual who has been subject to rape or incest.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for an unfavorable vote for HB 1109.