



**Bill No: HB0411/SB0043**

Title: Law Enforcement Officers Prohibition on Sexual Activity

Committee: Judiciary/Judicial Proceedings

Hearing Date: January 18, 2021

**Position: SUPPORT**

Reproductive Justice Inside is a statewide project addressing the needs of systems-involved individuals in Maryland seeking quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare. We urge a favorable report on HB 0411.

Sexual activity between any law enforcement officer or correctional officer is never consensual. It is based on power, control, and coercion. The activity or even the intimation of the activity pose a threat to the individual. They may make admissions that are not in their best interest or they may believe that they must acquiesce or lose privileges, freedom, and the right to say no. Additionally, there is a very real threat that pre-existing traumas may be exacerbated or may develop.

Further, this seems like a very simple prohibition – sadly, we must legislate the behavior and conduct of those who would seek to use sexual activity as a tool or a weapon.

For these reasons, Reproductive Justice Inside urges a favorable report on HB0411.

Respectfully submitted,

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