



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0626 Pregnant Persons Freedom Act of 2022**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Williams

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0626 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Women's rights are under attack all across the country. Our Supreme Court, which is supposed to represent the people of this country, seems to only want to represent the minority view that women's bodies are to be governed by men and laws that espouse the view that women do not get any say in what happens to them. The child that the woman is carrying has more rights than the woman. This is just backwards, given the lack of concern and support that our society has for either the woman or the child after it is born.

Our members think these laws are overreaching and unconstitutional.

This bill is designed to ensure a woman's right to choose in the wake of any Supreme Court decision on Roe v Wade. In the case of a provider being arrested for providing abortion services, it allows the provider to bring a lawsuit for any unlawful investigation or arrest for helping to terminate a pregnancy or providing resources that would help a woman terminate her pregnancy. It also protects women who terminate their own pregnancy.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.