
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1360 – Public Health – Abortion-Inducing Drugs

Hearing: March 11, 2022

Position: Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) strongly opposes *House Bill 1360 – Public Health – Abortion Inducing Drugs*. The bill seeks to restrict the provision of medication abortion with numerous requirements that are not supported by clinical evidence and counter to existing policies.

Medication abortion is highly safe and effective with low complication rates.ⁱ Maryland already recognizes that a full range of practitioners – physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, and physician assistants – may provide medication abortion as a result of a 2020 opinion issued by Attorney General Frosh. Medication abortion may also be provided through telehealth under a permanent rule change from the Food and Drug Administration in December 2021.

The legislation would restrict access to medication abortion by:

- Mandating that only a physician may provide medication abortion;
- Prohibiting the provision of medication abortion through telehealth;
- Imposing a 24-hour waiting period for medication abortion;
- Requiring health care practitioners provide false information about the “abortion-reversal” and risks of medication abortion; and
- Impose criminal penalties on abortion care providers, thus singling out abortion care providers being treated differently than any other health care provider under the law.

We ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ Jones R and Boonstra H, The public health implications of the FDA's update to the medication abortion label, *Health Affairs Blog*, 2016, <http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2016/06/30/the-public-health-implications-....>.

FDA, Questions and answers on Mifeprex, 2019, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-an...>.

Raymond EG et al., First-trimester medical abortion with mifepristone 200 mg and misoprostol: a systematic review, *Contraception*, 2013, 87(1):26–37, [https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824\(12\)00643-9/fulltext](https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824(12)00643-9/fulltext).

Chen MJ and Creinin MD, Mifepristone with buccal misoprostol for medical abortion: a systematic review, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 2015, 126(1):12–21, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0v4749ss>.