

Committee: House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 626

Title: Pregnant Person's Freedom Act of 2022

Hearing: March 11, 2022

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports the Pregnant Person's Freedom Act of 2022.

As a leading provider in reproductive and sexual healthcare, Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports legislation that promotes the well-being of pregnant people and protects bodily autonomy. From Texas to Mississippi, we are seeing increased attacks on pregnant people, including those who experience an induced or spontaneous pregnancy loss. Indeed, since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, there have been [several hundred individuals](#) across our country who have been subjected to criminal investigation, arrest, prosecution, and/or conviction for pregnancy loss or threat thereof.

As our mission states, Planned Parenthood of Maryland believes in providing health care to all people – no matter what. Our patient population includes individuals—pregnant or not—who have partaken in high-risk behavioral activities, such as drug use. Regardless of background or health history, we want all of our patients to be able to access the health care they need without fear of prosecution. However, in order to provide this care, we must ensure legal protections for employees who care for these patients.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland's clinicians and staff should not have to fear prosecution for taking care of someone who is dealing with an induced or spontaneous pregnancy loss. Spontaneous pregnancy loss is extremely common; approximately [10 to 20%](#) of confirmed pregnancies result in miscarriage by 13 weeks gestational age. This legislation fits with our

broader policy goals of supporting our patients and providers, and ensuring strong protections for folks seeking reproductive health care-related services.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.