



Favorable

HB1214 - Maryland Child Protection Act of 2022

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of Maryland Right to Life and for children across our state, I respectfully ask you to issue a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1214- the Maryland Child Protection Act. This is a common sense bill that the state must enact to protect Maryland children from sexual abuse and coercion at the hands of sexual predators and pedophiles.

This legislation is constitutionally sound and desperately needed for the protection of minors. It in no way infringes on a woman's right to abortion nor does it prohibit abortion in the case of rape or incest. However, this bill will address the epidemic of minor sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking in our state and protect children from sexual predatory adults.

Currently, all 50 states have laws requiring healthcare professionals and others to report the suspected sexual abuse of minors including statutory rape. The federal government also mandates that Title X healthcare facilities comply with state criminal reporting laws. However, there is substantial and developing evidence that many family planning and abortion clinics are not reporting all instances of suspected abuse and are, in some cases, advising minors and their abusers on how to circumvent the law. As a result, sexual predators are free to continue to abuse their victims, scarring them for life.

Tragically, statutory rape is a major problem in the United States. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) estimates that half of all children born to minors are fathered by adult men.¹ HHS has also found that 75 percent of girls under 14 years of age who have had sex report having a forced sexual experience.² In a similar report by the Massachusetts Family Institute, nearly 55 percent of children born to girls in the state who are 15 years old or younger were fathered by adult men.³

There are documented cases of individuals other than a parent or guardian aiding, abetting, and assisting minor girls to procure abortions without their parents' or guardians' knowledge, consent, or involvement. This includes transporting children across state lines to avoid Maryland's parental notification requirements for abortion.

To prevent future and continuing sexual crimes against children, all suspected crimes of this nature must be reported to state investigators and agencies that are specifically trained and equipped to professionally, thoroughly, and compassionately investigate cases of suspected crimes against children, relieving mandatory reporters of any investigatory responsibility.

¹Asaph Glosser, Karen Gardinier & Mike Fishman, *Statutory Rape: A Guide to State Laws and Reporting Requirements 1* (The Lewin Group ed., 2004).

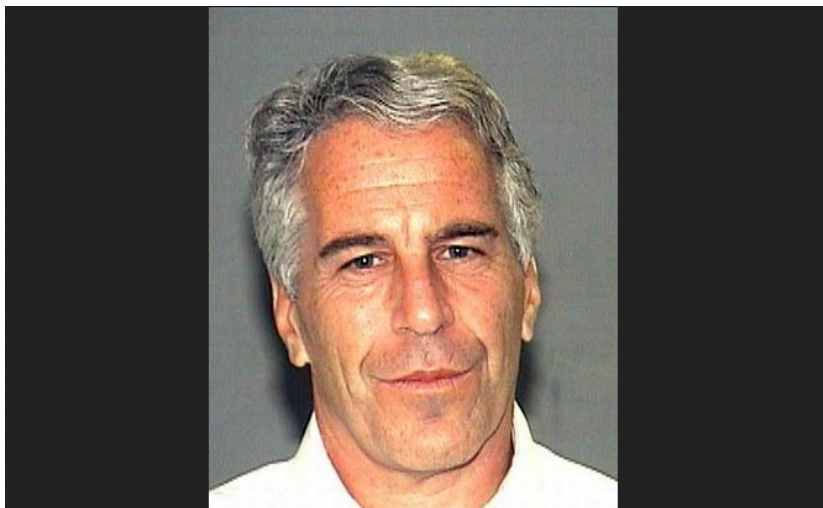
²*Id.* at 1.

³ Matthew Daniels & Dan Englund, *Statutory Rape: When Adults Prey Sexually Upon Children 7* (Massachusetts Family Institute ed., 1998).

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to issue a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB1214.

Jeffrey Epstein Rape Victim Was Forced to Have Abortion, Clinic Likely Never Reported It

LifeNews.com | Micaiah Bilger | Jul 3, 2020 | 4:47PM | Washington, DC



A woman who allegedly was raped by pedophile Jeffrey Epstein said he pressured her into aborting her unborn baby and then threatened her if she told.

Epstein, who had connections to British royalty, former President Bill Clinton and other powerful figures, is back in the news after his long-time girlfriend and associate Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested Thursday in New Hampshire.

On Friday, “Jane Doe,” one of their many alleged victims, said she was drugged and raped by both Epstein and Maxwell, starting when she was 14 years old, [Newsweek reports](#). Doe is involved in a lawsuit against Epstein’s estate.

“She did rape me,” Doe told Fox News. “I would say it’s more than 20 or 30 times. She is just as evil as Jeffrey Epstein. She is a rapist.”

Doe said the abuse began in 1991 in Florida. When she was 16, Doe said she became pregnant by Epstein and was pressured into aborting her unborn baby, [the Metro reports](#).

“I had never been with anyone except for him,” she said. “The fact that I had to kill my child really affected me and my family.”

After aborting her unborn child, Doe said she was gang-raped as a final punishment and then threatened with a gun.

“Ghislaine was a part of it and Jeffrey Epstein was a part of it and I was drugged, gang raped and left on the lawn and they put a gun to me,” she told Fox News. “The man that drove me home said ... I would never come back alive if I spoke about it.”

The woman claimed Maxwell, Epstein, and others gang-raped her as punishment after they suspected that she told her grandparents about the abortion and were fearful she would talk to authorities. ...

The woman's grandfather allegedly put her into hiding following the rape, forcing her to drop out of high school. "I basically kind of vanished," she said. "Ms. Maxwell was a participant, and she made it very clear that I was to keep my mouth shut or harm would come to my family and myself and harm did come to me."

She did not say where she had the abortion, but, because she was a minor, the abortion facility should have reported suspected abuse to authorities. Whether it did or not may never be known, but the abortion industry [has a history of not reporting statutory rape or sexual abuse to authorities](#). Planned Parenthood has been caught multiple times failing to report suspected abuse of minors to authorities.

A Louisiana abortion facility that recently won a U.S. Supreme Court battle also [has been accused of failing to report the rapes of girls as young as 11](#).

In 2008, [a Planned Parenthood in Bloomington, Indiana was exposed for agreeing to help cover up the sexual abuse of a minor](#) in an undercover sting.

In another case in Ohio, Planned Parenthood faced a lawsuit after it failed to report the statutory rape of a 14-year-old girl. The girl's soccer coach got her pregnant and then took her to the abortion clinic to cover up his crime, [LifeNews reported](#).

The abuse extends to sex trafficking victims as well. In 2011, [a Live Action investigation](#) uncovered wide-spread willingness among Planned Parenthood employees to help sex traffickers cover up their abuse of young teens.

Epstein is accused of sex trafficking many young girls. He allegedly committed suicide in prison in August, though many believe his death was suspicious.