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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 583 - Public Health - Abortions - Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome

**Hearing Date:** March 11, 2022

**Position:** Oppose

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *House Bill 583 – Public Health – Abortions – Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome*. The bill would allow the State to interfere with an individual’s decision to terminate a pregnancy because of a specific prenatal diagnosis.

We oppose this bill because it allows the State to interfere in a personal medical decision. Each pregnancy is unique, and individuals should retain the right to make their own decisions in consultation with their health care providers. This legislation is similar to laws that have been consistently struck down by the court, as recently as last year,<sup>i</sup> because they violate due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment.

We ask for an unfavorable report. If you need any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> Planned Parenthood of Indiana v. Box, No. 17-2428 (7th Cir. 2021).