
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 735 – Public Health - Abortion

Hearing: March 11, 2022

Position: Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland strongly opposes *House Bill 735 – Public Health – Abortion*. The bill prohibits abortion after a “fetal heartbeat” is detected, and it is enforced through a private right of action.

This legislation is dangerous and extreme. Modeled after SB 8 from Texas, the legislation would essentially ban abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy. The law would be enforced through intimidation by allowing any individual to file a civil action against anyone who “knowing engages in conduct that aids or abets the performance or inducement of an abortion.” This provision puts health care providers, friends and family of the patient, and any person, including a ride sharing driver, at risk for supporting an individual seeking abortion care.

The impact of SB 8 has been severe in Texas. Abortions have declined by 50%. Individuals who were not able to travel to other states have been forced to carry pregnancy to term or have sought care outside of the legal health system.ⁱ

We ask for unfavorable report. Marylanders should be able to make medical decisions about abortion without fear and intimidation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/txpep/news/initial-impacts-of-texas-senate-bill-8-on-abortions-in-texas-and-at-out-of-state-facilities-research-brief>