



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

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) opposes House Bill 583 – Public Health – Abortions – Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome. This legislation would prohibit an individual from terminating a pregnancy if receiving a specific prenatal diagnosis. The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM is opposed to legislation designed to interfere with an individual’s autonomy in making reproductive health decisions. In 2019 after state legislatures introduced a record-breaking number of anti-reproductive health measures, ACNM – National issued a statement that “reaffirms its commitment to individual patient autonomy across the spectrum of reproductive health, including abortion.”ⁱ Therefore, we oppose this legislation and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ<https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007327/ACNM%20Opposition%20Statement%20to%20Threats%20to%20Abortion%20Care%20March%202019.pdf>