

## **HB 0626 Against**

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I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 0626 – The Pregnant Persons Freedom Act of 2022.

Let's be clear about what this bill seeks to achieve - it proposes a revision of the fetal murder/manslaughter statute that would essentially handcuff the investigation of *infant deaths unrelated to abortion*. In other words – this bill will effectively legalize infanticide. As a result, a baby born alive and well could be abandoned and left to starve or freeze to death, and nothing could be done to punish those who participated in that cruel death. The bill also includes a section that would allow “a person [to] bring a cause of action for damages if the person was subject to unlawful arrest or criminal investigation for a violation of this section as a result of . . . experiencing a . . . perinatal death. Note the medical definition (from Medicinenet.com) of “perinatal”: “The perinatal period is defined in diverse ways. Depending on the definition, it starts at the 20th to 28th week of gestation and ends 1 to 4 weeks after birth.” So, according to this bill, if a baby died because it was abandoned and police investigated and eventually arrested the person responsible for the baby's death, then the woman could sue the police and get monetary damages for having been investigated and arrested. Also, this bill could prevent any investigations into the death of infants at least seven days AFTER their birth, and may extend to infants as old as four weeks.

Marylanders already have a “safe haven” law which provides “any person who leaves an unharmed newborn not more than 10 days old with a responsible adult with the intent not to return for the child shall be immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution.” If a woman in Maryland doesn’t want her baby after the child is born, she is already immune from criminal liability for leaving her baby, as long as the baby is left in a safe manner. Is this asking too much? What is the reason for HB 0626 and SB 0669 other than pure evil? Please do the right thing and oppose this legislation which will allow someone who lets their baby die from being investigated.