

House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Bill 1214 – Maryland Child Protection Act of 2022
March 3, 2022
Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *House Bill 1214 – Maryland Child Protection Act* as the provisions of the bill would endanger rather than protect minors. The bill prohibits an individual from assisting a minor of any age in obtaining abortion care. The bill also requires a physician to extract and submit sample of fetal tissue if the minor is under the age of fourteen years.

The bill states under Family Law Article § 5-717 (F) that, “No person may intentionally cause, abet, or assist a minor to obtain an abortion without the consent of the minor’s parent or guardian.” This extreme provision would leave a minor without any resources in making decisions about pregnancy. A minor’s friend could not provide advice or support unless the friend had obtained consent from the minor’s parent. Nor could a social service agency or sexual assault counselor provide support to minors facing situations of abuse. Even a ride-sharing service would be prohibited from providing transportation to the minor seeking abortion care. Abortion care providers would be forced to seek the consent of a parent even in cases of abuse, thus endangering the safety of the minor.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.