

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 832  
Public Health – Abortions - Coercion  
**DATE:** March 1, 2023  
(3/15)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 832. This proposed legislation if enacted would prohibit an individual from committing or threatening certain actions intended to coerce a pregnant woman into having an abortion.

The Judiciary is concerned about Health General § 20-219(b)(2) of the bill which requires courts to provide counsel for pregnant women in certain cases. Courts should retain discretion to decide when it is appropriate to appoint counsel for a party. This bill also does not provide any guidance as to who would fund this counsel.

cc. Hon. Mary Beth Carozza  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor