



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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TESTIMONY FOR SB0786

Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Information and Insurance Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate and Susan Radke, lead advocates

Position: FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, representing both ourselves and Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports SB0786**.

Since the Supreme Court of the United States overturned Roe v Wade, taking away a 50 year precedent of federal protection for the rights of reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy for women, many states have taken away the right to abortion, including post-miscarriage care, under all or almost all circumstances. As well, these state legislatures are attempting to restrict the rights of other states to provide reproductive care, including abortion care, by passing legislation that would allow them to prosecute providers in states that provide legally protected reproductive care to a resident from the restrictive state who seeks care in the less-restrictive state. This campaign by anti-choice legislatures to intimidate and prosecute providers and patients in Maryland depends on states having access to information about reproductive care via electronic health record systems. In most cases, cross-state access to health records improves health outcomes of patients; however, the sharing of information about reproductive health care puts patients and providers at risk under restrictive and harmful laws in other states.

SB0786 provides extra layers of protection for reproductive health information in electronic (or paper) health records. The bill also ensures that Maryland's state government protects personal information of patients and providers that may be stored in state databases. Reproductive freedom in Maryland depends on making sure we protect the data of our providers and patients. As advocates for reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy for all Marylanders (and others!), Indivisible Central Maryland **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB0786**, and urges a favorable vote in committee. Thank you.