



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations

**Bill:** House Bill 705 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2023

**Position:** Support

---

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 705 – Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*. The bill proposes a Constitutional Amendment to protect the ability of Marylanders to make and effectuate reproductive health decisions about abortion, birth control, and other pregnancy care.

With the *Dobbs* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court erased legal protections for abortion by overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Because the decision cited there was no constitutional right to privacy, other rights – including the right to access birth control – are at risk. Maryland has strong laws protecting reproductive health access, but we need the very highest level of State legal protection as provided in this legislation.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).