

Emely Loscalzo
Miami, FL 33016

Support
HB 812 – Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Information and Insurance
Requirements
Maryland House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 2, 2023

My name is Emely Loscalzo, a senior at Johns Hopkins University and a resident of Miami, Florida. As you can imagine, the end of high school and beginning of college haven't exactly been the typical experience of most Hopkins students who came before me. But even with all that uncertainty, I never imagined I'd be concerned for my medical privacy.

Since Texas SB 8 went into effect in September 2021, I've just been waiting for the other shoe to drop in my home state. I'm grateful that I'm in Maryland eight months out of the year, where reproductive health care access has been affirmed and expanded, a state that still recognizes gaps in access and works to address them. But the other four months of the year, I'm in Florida, which is doing the opposite.

I am in college. I'm an adult. When I'm sexually active, I take precautions. But I also know that precautions are not 100% effective. Again, I'm grateful to spend the bulk of my year in Maryland, where providers aren't legally forced to lie to me about my options, where providers are not only allowed, but encouraged to give me a long factual list of *all* of my options. But whichever option I choose, it gets marked down in my electronic health records.

Electronic health records are a great idea. Especially for someone like me. I get stitches in a Baltimore urgent care facility, my primary care provider in Miami knows why I suddenly have a scar. But when it comes to reproductive health care, I'm not confident in the direction my state is taking.

Seeing criminal and civil penalties being threatened in other states for abortion care patients, providers, and support networks in other states, I know Florida is looking at those laws. I want to know *now* that whatever care I seek in Maryland, I have control over whether a provider in Florida sees it.

For the privacy and security of myself, all the other out-of-state students across Maryland, and for Marylanders who might need to seek health care while visiting other states, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB 812. Thank you for your time.