

**Testimony in Support of SB 859
Reproductive Health Protection Act
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Finance Committee
March 1, 2023**

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. holds reproductive choice is an important issue to ensure all women have agency over their own bodies and the autonomy to make health decisions for themselves. As the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to support SB 859, a bill that will protect health care providers, patients and people who support people in their reproductive health decisions from criminal charges, civil litigation and administrative penalties from other states.

Hadassah has and always will stand unequivocally for reproductive choice and empowering women with the knowledge to make critical health decisions for themselves and their families. Any interference with the doctor-patient relationship – preventing doctors from discussing women's specific concerns, sharing expert medical guidance, or providing necessary care – poses a serious threat to women's health.

Reproductive freedom is critical to women's health and all women should be able to make reproductive health choices based on medical guidance and what they feel is best for their health, families, and future. This should be done without intimidation tactics from other states. Marylanders will only have reproductive freedom if we shield ourselves from these outside threats.

We strongly urge you to support SB 859 to protect reproductive freedom.

Thank you,
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