



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Samuel I. Rosenberg

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RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 812 – *Health – Reproductive Health Services – Protected Information and Insurance Requirements*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 812.

As a result of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Many States have enacted laws to ban access to abortion care and other reproductive health care services. As a result, many residents of those States must travel out-of-state to access needed care. Many of the State laws not only ban access to services in their state but also seek to criminalize the care provided to their citizens in another State. The efforts to intimidate providers and patients in Maryland requires access to information about reproductive health care provided in our state.

Under electronic health record systems, protected health information, including reproductive health records, is easily transferred between states. Information sharing is allowed by law if it is related to coordination of care among a patient's providers. Under most circumstances, care coordination improves the health outcomes of patients. But in the case of reproductive health, information sharing is putting reproductive health providers and patients at great risk. House Bill 812 provides extra layers of protection for reproductive health information in electronic health record systems, often called health information exchanges. The legislation also ensures Maryland's state government protects personal information of patients and providers that may be stored in state databases.

Reproductive freedom in Maryland depends on protecting the personal information of our providers and patients. A favorable report is requested.