



## Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Barrie S. Ciliberti

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: March 16, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 973 – *Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Waiting Period*

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **opposes** House Bill 973.

House Bill 973 prohibits a physician from performing an abortion within 24 hours of a transabdominal ultrasound imaging. A pregnant person who lives more than 100 miles away, must wait at least two hours after the transabdominal ultrasound imaging. House Bill 973 also defines requirements for the medical professional that may perform the transabdominal ultrasound. Further, a pregnant person must sign a written certification that they were offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound image, receive a printed copy of the ultrasound image, and hear the fetal heartbeat.

The ability to obtain abortion care without delay is critically important to people's reproductive health. Delays create an unnecessary barrier to obtaining medical care and intrude on the patient-provider relationship. Further, unnecessary delays fail to protect the best interests of the patient. MDACOG opposes legislation that interferes with an individual's autonomy in making reproductive health decisions. For these reasons, an unfavorable report is requested.