

Planned Parenthood of Maryland

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Committee: | Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee |
| Bill Number: | House Bill 287 - Public Health - Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus – Repeal |
| Hearing: | March 28, 2023 |
| Position: | Support |

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *House Bill 287 – Public Health - Prohibition on Transfer of Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Repeal*. This bill repeals the misdemeanor prohibition against and associated penalty for knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to another.

As a health care provider for many members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Maryland, we support bills that works towards ending the stigma of HIV in the LGBTQIA+ community. When the HIV epidemic first emerged, people with HIV were stigmatized by the law, our health care system, and general society. Many states passed laws like Maryland’s to criminalize the knowing transmission of HIV. These laws marginalize and unfairly target the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as other marginalized communities, such as certain immigrant populations, with high rates of HIV. It is time to remove the vestiges of laws that stigmatize people living with HIV.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@poliypartners.net.