

**POSITION:** Favorable HB808 “Reproductive Health Protection Act”  
**TO:** House Health and Government Operations Committee and Judiciary  
**DATE:** March 8, 2023  
**FROM:** Judy A. Carbone, Swanton, Garrett County, MD  
Mountain Maryland Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (MMARF)

My name is Judy Carbone, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of MMARF, the Mountain Maryland Alliance for Reproductive Freedom. MMARF is a non-partisan, grassroots organization of people in Allegany and Garrett Counties, committed to assuring and expanding reproductive healthcare and freedom to residents in rural Mountain Maryland.

I am here to ask that the committee deliver a favorable vote on HB808. This bill is an important protection to all Marylanders, but this bill is particularly important to residents of Garrett County.

Our representatives to the state legislature often speak as if the residents of Mountain Maryland are against abortion and other reproductive rights and freedoms. That’s just not true! Support for having accessible, affordably, and local reproductive healthcare and information on all legally available options is extensive and growing.

With West Virginia on our western, southern, and eastern borders and the WV abortion ban, Garrett Countians have even further limited options, and we will see an influx of others coming through our county to secure reproductive healthcare services in downstate Maryland.

Should we be lucky enough to have our own reproductive healthcare facility, the number of people coming to Mountain Maryland for healthcare will increase dramatically. And the number of people in Garrett County who help people from other states get such services – including the healthcare providers and the volunteers who will help with transportation, clinic escorting, supportive information providing, possibly even room and board – will increase.

I am one of these volunteers helping others exercise their basic rights in Maryland to get comprehensive reproductive right healthcare services even at the risk of being held liable as an accomplice in other states. I am one of these Marylanders who need to have the protections of a shielding bill.

And I ask that you provide that to me and so many other Marylanders by giving HB808 a favorable vote.

Thank you.

