



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 786 - Reproductive Health Services – Protected Information and Insurance Requirements

TO: Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair and Members of the Health
and Government Operations
FROM: Janice Bird, MD, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights
DATE: March 29, 2023

The members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland UULM-MD ask for your **SUPPORT of SB 786 - Reproductive Health Services – Protected Information and Insurance Requirements.**

Our Unitarian Universalist faith believes in the worth and dignity of all, and the rights to liberty and equality including the fundamental right to reproductive freedom without intimidation or harm to us or our providers. We affirm that the decisions we make about our bodies are entitled to protection and privacy. We are each endowed with the gifts of agency and conscience and should have the power to decide what does and doesn't happen to our bodies at every moment of our lives because consent and bodily autonomy are sacred.

Reproductive freedom in Maryland depends on making sure we do not expose the personal information of providers and patients to those wishing to intimidate and harm them, and who depend upon having access to information about reproductive health care provided in our state. Protected health information in electronic health records—including reproductive health records—presently flows easily 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.

This legislation provides extra layers of protection for reproductive health information in electronic health record systems and ensures Maryland's state government protects personal information of patients and providers that may be stored in state databases. Legally protected health care means all reproductive health services, medications and supplies related to the direct provision or support of the provision of care related to pregnancy, contraception, assisted reproduction, and abortion that is lawful in Maryland.

Please vote YES for SB 786!

Sincerely,
Janice Bird, MD



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UULM-MD Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights