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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 276 – Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Hearing:** March 15, 2024

**Position:** Oppose

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *House Bill 276 – Health – Abortions – Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to submit data regarding abortion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless doing so would violate state or federal law. We oppose HB 276 for the following primary reasons:

- **Public Health Data is Already Available:** The bill presumes that there is no information available about pregnancy and abortion rates in Maryland. However, the Guttmacher Institute routinely collects this information and calculates pregnancy-related rates in every state<sup>1</sup>.
- **Public Health Survey Data is More Accurate:** When analyzing pregnancy-related data, the Guttmacher Institute does not use data from mandated state abortion reporting systems. According to Guttmacher, “abortions are almost always underreported to the state surveillance systems.”<sup>2</sup> Instead, Guttmacher uses its own survey data.
- **Intimidating to Patients:** Women’s fears about the confidentiality of abortion services are very real. Some anti-abortion activists have publicized confidential and highly personal information about abortion on websites or to the press. Unfortunately, this creates a uniquely hostile environment for our patients. It is unlike any other environment in which individuals seek medical services. Mandated reporting for abortion services, especially since there are no such mandates for other types of medical procedure, would only add to the concerns of women seeking abortion services.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/pregnancy-desires-and-pregnancies-state-level-estimates-2017>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report\\_pdf/stateup08.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/stateup08.pdf)

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- **Threat to Providers:** Given the real threat of intimidation of abortion providers, we seek to protect our staff and limit the ways people have access to their personal data.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland requests an unfavorable report on HB 276. Please contact Erin Bradley, Vice President of Public Affairs, at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care) or (443) 604-3544 for additional information.