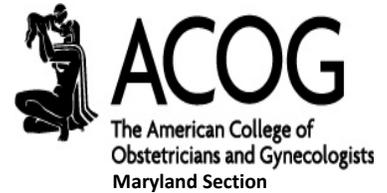




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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Robin L. Grammer, Jr.

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: March 15, 2023

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

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society and the Maryland Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we **oppose** House Bill 276.

House Bill 276 requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to submit abortion data to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. To obtain such data, MDH would have to establish a data collection system for providers to report abortion-related information to the Department.

Information about pregnancy and abortion rates in Maryland is already available. The Society for Family Planning has begun data collection in partnership with providers. The “We Count” reports were created largely to track the impact of the Dobbs decision on the provision of abortion care for each State. In addition, the Guttmacher Institute has routinely collected information and calculated pregnancy-related rates in every State for several years. This data is more accurate than state surveillance systems, which have been found to underreport abortions.

Furthermore, and more important, patients are often fearful about the confidentiality of the data regarding their abortion services. Opponents of abortion have been known to publicize confidential personal information about abortion to the press and on public websites. Mandating reporting for abortion services, something that is not mandated for other types of health care services, would only add to the concerns of individuals seeking abortion services.

For these reasons, we request an unfavorable report.