



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **RE: House Bill 276 – Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for House Bill (HB) 276 – Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HB 276 requires the Department to submit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) any data regarding abortion requested by the CDC, unless submitting the data would violate federal or State law.

The Department does not currently collect abortion data. Therefore, the Department does not have abortion data to submit to the CDC upon their request. Furthermore, the CDC itself describes its abortion data surveillance system as a voluntary reporting data collection effort.<sup>1</sup> While some states may choose to report this data to the CDC, they are not mandated by law to do so.<sup>2</sup>

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Abortion Surveillance — United States, 2021. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nov 2023.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7209a1.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Abortion Reporting Requirements. The Policy Surveillance Program. Temple University Beasley School of Law. Nov 2022. <https://lawatlas.org/datasets/abortion-reporting-requirements>