

HB 276

Favorable

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Please issue a favorable opinion on House Bill 276.

Maryland continues to be one of only four states that does not collect abortion statistics and voluntarily share them with the CDC (New Hampshire, New Jersey, and California are the others). Maryland collects health statistics on many other things, but not abortion. This bill doesn't require MDH to collect statistics, but has a weaker standard of sharing with the CDC those statistics they request.

The state of Maryland has a compelling interest to track data, to have access to data to help answer questions that might guide reasonable regulations to ensure the health and wellbeing of the patients undergoing abortion. This bill attempts to move us in the direction of the vast majority of states in at least cooperating with the CDC while protecting both patients and doctors.

HB276 would bring Maryland closer to the standard implemented across the country, including many nearby states in sharing requested abortion health data with the CDC while protecting patients and doctors. Please return a favorable report for HB276.