

Testimony in Favor of HB 0276

By Michael J. New, Ph.D.

Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I live in Hyattsville, MD and I speak to you as a concerned citizen in support of HB 0276 “Abortion Data – Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

I have a Ph.D. in Political Science and a Masters Degree in Statistics both from Stanford University. I am an Assistant Professor of Practice at the Busch School of Business at the Catholic University of America. I am also a Senior Associate Scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the research and education arm of the Susan B. Anthony List. I have done academic research on the impact of pro-life laws and have made extensive use of CDC abortion data. Two of my studies on this topic have appeared in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* which is the top state politics journal in the country.

I will keep this written testimony brief. Currently, Maryland is an outlier. Maryland is one of three states has not reported any abortion data to the CDC since 2005(California and New Hampshire are the others). In the CDC’s 2021 Abortion Surveillance report which was released in November 2023, Maryland was one of only four states that did not report any abortion data.¹ Many states where there is strong sentiment in favor of legal abortion willingly and routinely report abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control on an annual basis.

Regardless of one’s position on the legality of abortion, more timely and accurate data on the incidence of abortion has the potential to improve public policy. More accurate abortion data would provide useful information about the effects of sex education programs, the effects of contraception programs, the incidence of statutory rape, and the impact of various abortion regulations. Again, regardless of your position on legal abortion, everyone should be in favor of accurate and timely data on the incidence of abortion in Maryland. Please vote in favor of HB 0276.

¹ Kortsmitt K, Nguyen A, Mandel M, et al. “Abortion Surveillance 2021” *Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report* 72(9) 1-29, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023 November 24.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7209a1.htm?s_cid=ss7209a1_w (Accessed March 13, 2024)