



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Senate Bill 0001 - Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)

Finance Committee – January 23, 2025

SUPPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2025 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of [SB0001](#) - **Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)**. Maryland law prohibits criminal and civil proceedings and investigations against health care providers who provide legally protected reproductive health care. This bill expands the definition of "legally protected health care" to include all contraceptive services, medications, supplies and surgical procedures, and assisted fertility procedures (including the use of gestational carriers).

Because Maryland's existing laws protect reproductive health care (including abortion), Maryland has become a safe-harbor for women from other States who seek this care. However, several more restrictive States have threatened to take legal action against women who receive out-of-State reproductive health care that is prohibited in their State, including their out-of-State health care providers. The [Texas Attorney General](#) has filed a lawsuit against a New York doctor for prescribing abortion drugs to a Texas resident in violation of Texas state law as a test case. Of growing concern is the [movement by some States](#) to expand the definition of "personhood" to cover embryos and fetuses. This could make it illegal to use some forms of contraception such as IUDs and emergency contraception, as well as [IVF for pregnancy](#) in which some embryos are destroyed.

Passage of this bill will protect all women who seek contraceptive and fertility health care in Maryland, and shield their providers, including those who provide contraceptive and fertility health care to out-of-State residents.

We ask for your support for SB0001 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Tazeen Ahmad
WDC President

Ginger Macomber
WDC Reproductive Health
Subcommittee

Diana Conway
WDC Advocacy Co-Chair