

SB1 - IVF and Contraception Shield Act Hopkins.SUP

Uploaded by: Annie Coble

Position: FAV

TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
Assistant Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: January 23, 2025

RE: SB1 Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)

SB1

Favorable

Johns Hopkins supports **SB1 IVF and Contraception Shield Act**. This bill expands the definition of "legally protected health care," in selected sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to cover IVF, all reproductive services, fertility preservation, and contraceptive treatments and services. This change will provide much needed protection for patients and providers and therefore maintain access to medically necessary health care.

We support the omission of Health General 4-301 from the sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland where the definition of "legally protected health care" is expanded. As the Committee is aware, a significant amount of work has gone in to protecting the privacy of patients' reproductive health information in recent years. The progress was challenging but meaningful and we would hate for anything to derail that work. The difficulty was balancing the intent of protecting patients' privacy, while also ensuring providers had access to enough information to continue to deliver quality care. Additionally, the definition of "legally protected health care" in Health General 4-301 already allows for expansion and flexibility through the Secretary at the recommendation of the Protected Health Care Commission established under that Section. This legislation does not propose any changes to that article, and therefore, as written does not impact previous work.

As a major employer in the State of Maryland with a presence in the National Capital Region and in Florida, and as a leading provider of clinical care, including health and well-being services to our students, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine take seriously our obligation to the many populations we serve. We remain firmly committed to providing the safest and best possible care to our patients, and to supporting all aspects of women's health and reproductive rights.

To the fullest extent allowed under the law, our institutions have continued to be guided by the evidence-based best practices established by medical and public health faculty experts and practitioners, which make clear that access to safe, legal abortion is critical for the health of individuals, families, and communities. Accordingly, we greatly appreciate this legislation which provides necessary legal protections to our health care providers and patients and helps to ensure that access to reproductive healthcare is not criminalized.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **SB1**.

SB0001 Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductiv

Uploaded by: Ayla Hurley

Position: FAV

Ayla Hurley
6385 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 001, Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)

1/23/2025

TO: Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to urge you to support SB 001, the IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025.

With the recent repeal of Roe v. Wade, I and my spouse have had to make difficult decisions to protect our health. Other families have had to do the same, and at a time when our bodies are being legislated and our bodily autonomy invaded, the additional stresses of family planning are even further fraught with stress. This bill will protect our bodily autonomy and ability to build our families when and how we see fit, including treatments that help those with fertility difficulties.

Every body, every family, and every person is different, and thus has differing needs when it comes to contraception, fertility, and reproductive care. These needs should be addressed and supported by a person and their doctor without fear of potential archaic legal or moral retribution. Maryland has generally been a safe haven for reproductive rights, and I urge the committee to support SB 001 and continue to protect Marylanders from unscientific and harmful failures in understanding of reproductive and contraceptive treatments. Thank you.

SB0001 IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025_ML

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0001

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness - Address Requirements – Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0001 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

It should be noted, when MLC promoted the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment (2024), on social media, we received astonishing comments suggesting that the Amendment would promote transsexual procedures.

That aside, MLC supports SB001 because it assures access to contraception, pregnancy care, and abortion services, which are crucial for our health and autonomy. However, we also see this legislation as rebutting some of the misunderstanding, or more accurately, the misinformation surrounding our newest Constitutional Amendment.

MLC members would not like to see our victory undone by those seeking to chip away at availability of reproductive health care. Without the protection of SB001, health care providers and patients face vulnerabilities to include disciplinary actions and criminal and civil proceedings.

Thankfully, Maryland's SB001 provides a clear definition of reproductive health, which includes fertility treatments, contraception, and abortion services. Additionally, it specifies what would be prohibited: formal reprimands or probation for misconduct, criminal investigations and prosecutions, and civil lawsuits related to these services.

SB0001 will not only help limit the liability of those implementing the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment (2024), but also help Marylanders fully understand its true purpose.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Finance SB1 Favorable 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

Finance Committee - Senate Bill 1 - FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Finance Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 1, the IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025, a FAVORABLE report.

As we know, our rights to our bodies are perpetually under attack by the Republican Congress and Trump administration. This bill seeks to protect people who simply want to make their own reproductive decisions.

I urge you to give SB1 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

SB_0001_HadassahGB_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Harriet Robinson

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of SB001
Legally Protected Health Care
Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services
(IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)
Senate Finance Committee
January 23, 2025**

FAVORABLE

TO: Sen. Pamela Beidle, Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
FROM: Nancy Braverman and Barbara Deitch, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

On behalf of the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to **vote FOR Senate Bill 0001 - Legally Protected Health Care - Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025).**

This bill will protect patients and providers from disciplinary actions and certain criminal and civil proceedings when involved in legally protected health care, including medications and procedures associated with in vitro fertilization (IVF), contraception and other reproductive health care.

Hadassah firmly believes that every woman must have the right to control her own reproductive future, including if, when and how to have children. We believe that the whole spectrum of reproductive health services – including fertility treatment, maternal and post-partum care, contraception and abortion – are all critical components of women's health care that must be protected.

Hadassah urges the committee for a favorable report on SB0001.

Thank you,
Nancy Braverman and Barbara Deitch
Co-Presidents, Hadassah Greater Baltimore
P.O. Box 21571
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sb0001 2025 testimony ivf protecton.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0001

**LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE REPRODUCTIVE, FERTILITY
PRESERVATION, AND CONTRACEPTIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES
(IVF AND CONTRACTION SHIELD ACT OF 2025)**

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator Pamela Beedle, Chair, Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair and the members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: January 23, 2025

We support this very important bill that will provide protections for users of certain legally protected health care, including of IVF. The Episcopal Church recognizes the challenges of infertility, and since 1982, we have supported in vitro fertilization (IVF), Resolution Number: 1982-A067. and stated: That this 67th General Convention of the Episcopal Church gives approval to usage of so-called "in vitro" fertilization for the purpose of providing children in a marriage." Since its development in the 1970s, in vitro fertilization (IVF) has proven itself to be a safe, effective, and reliable means to achieving pregnancy. IVF has allowed millions of aspiring parents to experience the miracle of childbirth. IVF is a pro-woman and pro-family solution for those struggling to have children. IVF has become a symbol of hope for those aspiring to conceive. It is now estimated that nearly 2 percent of all live births in the United States are the result of IVF, resulting in tens of thousands of happy, healthy babies being born annually. The use of IVF has strengthened our communities and our nation by promoting generations of children and families that otherwise may not have come to be. The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges a favorable vote.

Contraception - testimony - senate - 2025 SB1 FAV

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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For more information contact:
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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 1
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
January 23, 2025

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. MCASA urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 1.

Senate Bill 1 – Protection for Access to Contraception

This bill will expand the definition of “legally protective health care”, including clarifying protection for health care providers advising and providing patients with contraception. This is important for survivors of reproductive coercion.

Survivors of Reproductive Coercion Need Access to Contraception

Reproductive coercion is a form of intimate partner violence where a woman's partner tries to control reproductive decisions by preventing access to or tampering with birth control, or forcing sexual intercourse with the intent of causing pregnancy. Of women who were raped by an intimate partner, 30% experienced a form of reproductive coercion by the same partner. Specifically, about 20% reported that their partner had tried to get them pregnant when they did not want to or tried to stop them from using birth control. About 23% reported their partner refused to use a condom. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/understanding-RRP-inUS.html>

These survivors need to be able to seek forms of contraception that prevent pregnancy despite the coercive acts they face. Senate Bill 1 expands existing protections for providers of reproductive care to clearly and comprehensively cover contraception.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Finance Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 1**

SB0001_FAV_mgoldstein_2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



Secular Maryland

<https://secularmaryland.dorik.io>

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

January 23, 2025

SB 1 - FAV

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

Dear Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice-Chair Katherine Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee,

This bill provides support for medical professionals and institutions by adding contraceptive and fertility treatments to the medical activities afforded some protections against potentially costly lawsuits. There are well founded concerns over the vulnerability of medical professionals and institutions to lawsuits interfering with medical practice. Secular Maryland favors passage of this bill.

Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD

SB1- LWVMD- FAV- Legally Protected Health Care- IV

Uploaded by: Nora Miller Smith

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB1: Legally Protected Health Care- Reproductive, Fertility Preservation, and Contraceptive Treatment and Services (IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: January 23, 2025

The League of Women Voters Maryland supports **Senate Bill 1: IVF and Contraception Shield Act of 2025**, which would provide an additional layer of legal protection ensuring Marylanders' right to reproductive health care.

The League has a long history of affirming the right of individuals to self-determination related to bodily autonomy, privacy, and reproductive health. The League's 1983 *Position on Public Policy on Reproductive Rights* states that **"Public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices."** During the 1993-1994 health care debate, the League pressed for inclusion of reproductive services in any health care reform package. And in 2012 the League successfully fought against attempts in Congress to allow an employer or provider with a "religious or moral" objection to exclude certain healthcare services, including reproductive health care, from coverage under the ACA.

The League continues to advocate to protect each individual's right to make their own reproductive health choices. However, those rights are currently being eroded in both state and federal decisions.

In February 2024, in an effort to codify fetal and embryonic "personhood," the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that human embryos created through IVF (in vitro fertilization) can be considered "unborn children located outside a biological uterus" under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor law.¹ Following that decision, IVF services were immediately halted in many areas, as providers of assisted reproduction services and their patients were uncertain of the legal implications of the ruling, including their person civil or criminal liability.

Similarly, the right to contraception, long-considered a fundamental part of health care, is being called into question by recent legal decisions. In his concurring opinion on the 2022 Supreme Court *Dodds* decision, **Justice Clarence Thomas argued that the Court "should**

¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/2024/05/first-quarter-2024-state-policy-trends>

reconsider” its past rulings,² including *Griswold vs Connecticut*- which held that as the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the right to privacy, it protects the legal right to use contraception, despite any attempt by a state to make the use of contraception illegal.

With these decisions, state courts and state legislatures have become even more important in protecting reproductive rights-- those personal choices that are fundamental to personal dignity and autonomy. **Passage of this bill would be a strong step to ensure that reproductive health care, including assisted reproduction, fertility preservation, and contraception, will remain accessible and legally protected health care in Maryland.**

For this reason, the League of Women Voters and its 1,500+ concerned members throughout Maryland, strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 1.

² <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/24/thomas-constitutional-rights-00042256>

SB0001 IVF and Contraceptive Shield Act WDC Testim

Uploaded by: Virginia Macomber

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

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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