

Favorable Statement HB 1357
Public Health - Reproductive Health Care Data - Report
Stephanie Atha, Choose Hope Women's Center

As a director of a pregnancy center, I see firsthand how crucial it is for women to have access to accurate information about their healthcare options. **I urge this Assembly to enact a law requiring comprehensive reporting on the costs associated with maternal and reproductive health in Maryland.** Currently, our state does not systematically track the financial impact of pregnancy, delivery, abortion, and related medical assistance costs. Without this data, we are making policy decisions in the dark.

How can we responsibly allocate funding for maternal health programs if we don't know the costs of prenatal care, high-risk pregnancies, or abortion services? How do we ensure Maryland's medical assistance programs are being used effectively? Transparency in these costs would not only inform policymakers but also help organizations like mine better serve women in need.

Other states have taken proactive steps to collect this data, ensuring informed policymaking and accountability. Maryland should do the same. Transparency benefits everyone by ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and Maryland families receive the care they deserve.

Let us ensure our policies are based on facts, not speculation. I urge you to support legislation requiring full transparency in maternal and reproductive health costs.

Thank you.

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