



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act)

Bill Number(s): [HB1186/SB933](#)

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: February 24, 2025

Submitted by: Director Jeremy Browning on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Hon. William C. Smith, Chair
The Hon. J. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair

House Judiciary Committee

The Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair
The Hon. J. Sandy Bartlett

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

While the Commission strongly opposes reproductive coercion and supports legal protections for survivors of abuse, we urge an unfavorable report on HB1186/SB933 due to its potential unintended consequences. Maryland law already criminalizes drugging another person without their consent under existing statutes, including laws against assault, reckless endangerment, and fraudulent administration of drugs.

This bill, however, specifically isolates abortion-inducing medication, raising serious concerns that it could be misused to further restrict access to reproductive healthcare. Such measures disproportionately impact LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly transgender men and nonbinary people who seek abortion care, and add to the growing landscape of laws aimed at policing reproductive autonomy.

Additionally, broad and vague criminal statutes have historically been used to disproportionately target marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ people and people of color. This bill could be exploited in domestic disputes, misapplied to criminalize healthcare providers, and further stigmatize reproductive healthcare. The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs believes that efforts to prevent reproductive coercion should be pursued through existing legal frameworks and survivor-centered policies that do not contribute to the overcriminalization of communities already facing systemic barriers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges an unfavorable report on HB1186/SB933.