
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: **Judiciary Committee**

Bill: **HB 1308 - Crime of Violence - Medical Facilities and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**

Hearing: **March 11, 2025**

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Nicholas Frazier, and I am a retired Maryland Police Officer. Currently, I am Security Manager at Planned Parenthood of Maryland. I have spent over 25 years in public safety to ensure that others feel safe. Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand the importance of creating a secure environment for all people, and I am proud of the work Maryland's law enforcement and political leadership have done to protect its citizens. This commitment is evident, as Maryland reproductive health clinics have a significantly lower level of violence compared to the other reproductive centers in the region, including areas where Planned Parenthood affiliates face substantial threats.

However, Planned Parenthoods are now facing an increasing and disturbing wave of targeted harassment and physical threats against health centers, staff, and patients. Across the nation, the trend of escalating anti-abortion activism is undeniable. From individuals being pardoned for violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act to organized campaigns aimed at disrupting services, reproductive health providers are under greater risk.

In recent incidents, activists, emboldened by the potential lax of enforcement of the FACE Act, have escalated their tactics. Speakers at rallies have openly encouraged aggressive actions, framing their mission as a religious duty to abolish abortion at all costs. Furthermore, individuals have posted public threats targeting Planned Parenthood affiliates, including threats of arson, violence, and harassment. One recent incident even involved an extremist suggesting violence against staff on social media, creating a climate of fear for those who work at or visit these centers.

Moreover, certain groups have encouraged disruptive tactics such as booking false appointments to prevent women from accessing essential care. This form of psychological and logistical harassment is designed to shut down health services, making it increasingly difficult for patients to receive the care they need. The safety of staff, patients, and volunteers is being jeopardized, and the rising trend in threats and harassment is unmistakable.

Given this alarming increase in physical threats and harassment, Maryland must pass a law to protect Planned Parenthood health centers and other reproductive health providers from these dangers. Such a law would provide critical support to staff and ensure that individuals can access vital health services without fear of physical or psychological harm.

Without legal protection, Planned Parenthood centers remain vulnerable to aggressive and violent tactics designed to intimidate and disrupt. Maryland has a responsibility to act now to ensure that these health centers remain safe havens for individuals seeking reproductive health care—free from the threat of violence and harassment.

Please see the attached list of attacks and threats against Planned Parenthood of Maryland and reproductive health clinics.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Frazier

Events

At Planned Parenthood of Maryland Facilities

January 28, 2025: While walking to Planned Parenthood of Maryland's Baltimore clinic, a staff member was approached and harassed by an individual (suspected of being a regular protestor). The individual was holding what seemed to be a recording device and was (presumably) filming the staff member approaching and entering the building.

May 30, 2023: The conservative outlet, *Breitbart*, [published a story](#) on an incident that occurred in front of Planned Parenthood of Maryland's Baltimore clinic. In the comments, many readers pushed calls to action for retribution.

In the United States and Canada

January 28, 2025: Anti-abortion activists **David Daleiden** and **Sandra Merritt**, of **Center for Medical Progress (CMP)** were each convicted of a felony for unlawfully recording confidential communications under the California Penal Code. This verdict marks the conclusion of a case first filed in 2017, which originally included 15 criminal charges stemming from their illegal covert recordings of private discussions about abortion.

January 28, 2025: **Coleman Boyd** protested alongside **Philip "Flip" Benham** at **Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic's (PPSAT) Charlotte Health Center**. Escorts overheard him talking about his recent prison release and pardon, which later led to his identification. A few days later, he was seen at the PPSAT Asheville Health Center.

January 28, 2025: **Chester (Chet) Gallagher** posted photos on [Facebook](#) of a trip to Aiken, South Carolina to visit **Eva Edl**, both of whom were also pardoned. In the Facebook post, Gallagher refers to Edl as his "past, present, and future co-conspirator."

January 15, 2025: Tyler Massengil set fire to a Planned Parenthood center in Peoria, IL.

December 28, 2024: Zack Knotts was detained and charged with disorderly conduct while protesting outside of the Northeast Ohio Women Center.

December 18, 2024: Three activists from the Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising (PAAU) invaded an independent reproductive health provider, Meadow Reproductive Services, located in McLean, Virginia.

December 31, 2021: A fire was set in the Knoxville, TN Planned Parenthood Health Center.

November 27, 2015: A shooting at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where three people died, including a police officer. Eight others were wounded, including four police officers.

January 2, 2009: Matthew L. Derosi rammed an SUV into the front entrance of a Planned Parenthood Health Center in St. Paul., MN.

December 31, 2000: An unknown perpetrator fired twenty-five shots into a Planned Parenthood in Overland Park, Kansas.

December 30, 1994: Two receptionists were killed in two clinic attacks in Brookline, Massachusetts.

February 25, 1990: Two men broke into a health center in Vancouver, Canada and destroyed medical equipment with a crowbar.

December 25, 1984: A health center and two physician offices in Pensacola, Florida, were bombed in the early morning

February 19, 1978: An employee at an independent health center in Cleveland, Ohio suffered chemical burns after a man posing as a delivery person threw a bag containing gasoline in her face. He then tossed a device to start a fire. Everyone inside the clinic escaped.