

# EZRA MACLEOD TOWNE

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## Testimony Unfavorable to HB0714:

### Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

March 17, 2026

Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Health Committee:

My name is Ezra Towne, and my pronouns are they/them. I am a parent, as spouse, and an advocate for reproductive rights, with approximately 9 years of experience working for pro-reproductive rights organizations. I am writing to you today in **strong opposition to HB714: Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

This bill runs counter to Maryland's status as an abortion sanctuary state: which was solidified with the 2024 Maryland Constitutional Amendment to protect reproductive rights. If Maryland complies with any CDC requirement to report abortion statistics and information or voluntarily supplies this information, it would violate our state constitution.

Our state constitution guarantees that "That every person, as a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy. The State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

Reporting data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would burden people with unwanted pregnancies by scaring them away from having a safe and legal abortion.

**For this reason, I respectfully ask for an unfavorable report from the Health Committee on HB0714: Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Sincerely,  
Ezra MacLeod Towne  
Wheaton, Maryland  
District 18