

Committee: House Health Committee

Bill: House Bill 49 - Public Health - Abortion

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Women's Law Center opposes *House Bill 49 – Public Health Abortion*. The bill proposes unconstitutional limits on reproductive freedom in Maryland. In November 2024, the right to reproductive freedom was added to Maryland's Constitution with the support of 76% of Maryland voters.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, the economic security, and the bodily autonomy of women throughout the State. One way we work towards this goal is by supporting women in their reproductive decisions if, when, and how they decide to build their families. Part of this support includes working to ensure that reproductive health care is treated equitably and fairly as a medical issue and not a political issue.

HB 49 is modeled after Texas SB 8 and is essentially a complete ban on abortion. Exceptions are permitted, but only if an abortion is medically necessary, and in those cases, a physician must document the reasons for the abortion. Failure to abide by these requirements would be a felony. Across the country we have seen how dangerous these restrictions are. Women have been denied emergency care in multiple states.

Because the restrictions proposed in House Bill 49 violates Maryland's Constitution, the Women's Law Center strongly urges an unfavorable report. If you need an additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.