

HB1281 Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Wait Time
Maryland General Assembly, March 2026
Position: Favorable with amendments..... and information

To the members of the House Health Committee.

I am writing in favor of HB1281 Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Wait Time, however with amendments. As an Autistic and transgender woman who was adopted from Taiwan during infancy circa 1990-1991, I can relate to not always fitting within traditional binaries (such as white and black with regards to ethnicity/race) and immediate family structures. I am also a Democrat, Montgomery County native, and I am consistently pro life from the womb to the tomb. I support access to healthcare insurance, access to gender-affirming care, suicide prevention, I oppose the death penalty, I support vaccines, I support sound scientific peer-reviewed research and recommendations, Medicaid expansion, protection of Medicaid HCBS Waivers, I support free breakfast and lunches at public schools, and I support adoption (as a demonstration of me being consistently pro-life).

Maryland has recognized people who may not identify within the traditional male-female binary and are allowed to select X marker on state-issued photo identification. I ask for a rewording “Pregnant women” to “pregnant people” and to replace “women” with “pregnant person”. People born with a uterus and identified female at birth can and do get pregnant.

Also, as someone who was adopted, I support alternatives to killing unborn children. As someone who is autistic - diagnosed with Asperger’s in middle school years - (and I work full-time in the developmental disability field), I have heard of the ableism that can begin when the child is in the womb in the case of pre-natal diagnosis of down syndrome for example. (<https://ypld.democratsforlife.org/index.php/learn/intersectionality/abortion-and-ableism>, <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2022/04/29/autism-abortion-prenatal-testing-242895/>, <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/05/28/why-dont-pro-life-and-disability-rights-groups-work-together-more-often/>)

Most importantly, I ask that this bill recognize every pregnant person, regardless of gender identity/expression and revise the bill to say “pregnant people” instead of “pregnant women”. Thank you.

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