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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>House Bill 615 Health Facilities - Confidentiality of Medical Records - Crisis Pregnancy Clinics</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>February 18, 2026</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Favorable</b>

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 615 Health Facilities - Confidentiality of Medical Records - Crisis Pregnancy Clinics*. This bill extends Maryland's existing confidentiality requirements for sensitive health related information to include crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), including mobile units that provide pregnancy-related services outside the scope of HIPAA-covered entities.

HB 615 makes a narrow but essential clarification: If an entity is providing pregnancy-related health services, including counseling or certain testing, it must follow the same confidentiality standards that already apply to health facilities. This bill does not regulate the content of services, restrict speech, or impose new clinical requirements. It simply ensures that any facility collecting sensitive health information must protect it.

Crisis pregnancy centers often collect deeply personal data about an individual's health yet operate outside HIPAA and are not required to safeguard or limit the use of that information. This can lead to unintended consequences; for example, clients may not realize their data can be shared publicly or with third parties. All Marylanders deserve consistent privacy protections across all entities that gather personal health related information. In the post-Dobbs landscape, reproductive health information can be weaponized in ways that undermine patient autonomy and safety. Extending protections to include crisis pregnancy centers is consistent with Maryland's recognition that privacy around a person's reproduction is essential.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for a favorable report on HB 615. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care).