



BILL NUMBER: HB 615

TITLE: Health Facilities - Confidentiality of Medical Records - Crisis Pregnancy Clinics

COMMITTEE: Health

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

Reproductive Justice Maryland Action supports House Bill 615 in keeping with our mission to champion reproductive justice as a fundamental human right for all Marylanders. We believe that everyone deserves the freedom to make informed decisions about their bodies, health, and futures, free from discrimination, coercion, and barriers.

Maryland has long served as a beacon of reproductive freedom in our region, attracting patients from many other states who cannot access the healthcare they need at home. When seeking care, both out-of-state and Maryland patients must navigate a deliberately confusing patchwork of entities with deceptive names. Crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) do not provide abortion or contraception, nor do they refer to clinics that do. Their aim is to impede access to these services. A person seeking an abortion or contraception would therefore have no reason to visit such a place but for their attempts to mirror legitimate clinics in name and design.

Once they have someone in the door, CPCs provide false or misleading information about the safety of abortion and contraception. They also use emotional appeals to convince the target to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. No legitimate medical clinic would use these tactics in search of a preordained outcome, but by the time the target figures out what is happening, the CPC already has her information. That CPC could very well participate in a large, national data-sharing network.¹ And since the CPC is not really a medical clinic, it need not observe medical privacy laws. What happens if her home state

¹ "Next Level Center Ma." *Next Level Center Ma*, 2024, www.nextlevelcms.com/. Accessed 16 Feb. 2026.

seeks to prosecute her for attempting to access abortion services? There is no clear legal directive at present due to the CPC privacy loophole.

HB 615 would require that CPCs follow the same patient privacy laws as legitimate health care organizations in Maryland. It does not impose any standard on them that does not already exist for real clinics providing abortion and contraception services. This will close a loophole in Maryland's otherwise very strong medical privacy and shielding laws. We understand the sponsor is considering clarifying amendments and would be pleased to assist. Reproductive Justice Maryland Action is proud to support HB 615 and urges a favorable report.