

**Testimony Opposing HB1281**  
**Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Wait Time**  
**UNFAVORABLE**

March 17, 2026

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

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1281, which intentionally places obstacles in the way of those accessing abortion care, which is legal and protected by the Maryland constitution.

The bill proposes a multitude of unnecessary and time-consuming interventions, including ultrasounds and waiting periods, which would be mandated prior to allowing a person seeking abortion services to receive that care. The medical professional conducting the mandatory ultrasound, if possible, would be required to measure the fetus, note internal organs, determine its gestational age, and include this information in a printed image to be offered to the patient for viewing, along with offering to hear the fetal heartbeat. It proposes monetary penalties against medical providers for not adhering to the extensive list of requirements, waiting periods, and for not requiring written certification by the patient that all of the items were offered. Medical practitioners who violate any of the provisions would be subject to a \$2,500 fine.

None of these interventions serve any medical purpose, impede access and impose additional costs and burdens on patients, and are designed to traumatize patients seeking legal reproductive healthcare. Further, adopting these unnecessary additional obstacles would endanger individuals who need emergency care. Maryland law does not impose these requirements for any other type of care, and they should not be adopted here.

For years, government control of reproductive functions has served to subordinate women, people of color, low-income people, and other underrepresented groups. HB1281 would continue this disenfranchisement and disregard for the bodily autonomy of healthcare patients seeking abortion care in Maryland.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to return an unfavorable report on HB1281.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melinda Littell  
Arnold, D33C