



HB 1401

OPPOSE

OUR MISSION

To restore, protect, and advance the rights of women and girls through legal argument, policy advocacy, and public education

OUR VISION

Total liberation of women and girls from all forms of sex-based oppressions, including gender identity, male violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and reproductive coercion

Women's Liberation Front OPPOSES HB 1401 which states that a qualified provider must inform a woman seeking an abortion of the alleged risks of depression, hemorrhage, breast cancer, infertility, and regret.

Women's Liberation Front is a national secular nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to restore, defend and advance the rights of women and girls. Infringing upon the reproductive sovereignty of women and girls reduces the female sex to property of the state to be governed by the external interests of others. To be recognized as independent and free human beings, no impediments to safe and legal contraception or abortion should be placed upon women and girls.

Anti-choice organizations intentionally lie and misinform the public by promoting wild and exaggerated claims against abortion, often while making unavailable any alleged study used as support. They frame their positions as "in the interest of informed consent" and "the well-being of the pregnant woman," but without proof of any medical necessity or evidence-based rationale, any assertions concerning the welfare of women are dubious at best.

We outright disagree with the provisions under HB 1401 concerning the alleged "risks" that are not based on either science or evidence *unless* they are addressed thusly:

- While every woman will experience her own individual feelings about having had an abortion, in systematic reviews of evidence assessing a woman's mental health condition after having had an abortion, among the highest quality studies, they've found women's mental health was "neutral" which suggests no mental health differences between women who've had and haven't had abortions.^{1,2,3} (Conversely, the studies with the most flawed methodology report more negative mental health outcomes.)
- The risk of hemorrhage after an abortion is rare, occurring in less than 1% of abortions, and inconsistent definitions of "hemorrhage" used across studies related to abortion have been unhelpful to address any issue related to morbidity and mortality.⁴



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- Abortion does not cause breast cancer. Early studies suggesting any correlation between abortion and breast cancer were poorly designed while more meticulous and recent studies demonstrate no causal link between abortion and the development of breast cancer.^{5,6}
- Abortion causing infertility is a very common myth that is not based on either science or evidence.^{7,8,9,10}
- Over 95% of women who've had an abortion say they made the right choice for them including among women who struggled with their decision.¹¹

It is highly unethical to require a physician to be employed to serve an ideologically or politically driven agenda that is unsupported by either science or evidence that ultimately serves to harm girls and women.

Women's Liberation Front urges Maryland's general assembly to decline passage of HB 1401 to protect women and girls from lies to confuse them about reproductive sovereignty and decisions.

Sincerely,

Women's Liberation Front

¹Charles VE, Polis CB, Sridhara SK, et al. Abortion and long-term mental health outcomes: a systematic review of the evidence. *Contraception*. December 2008. Vol. 78, Iss. 6, pp. 436-450. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2008.07.005>

²Horvath S, Schreiber CA. Unintended Pregnancy, Induced Abortion, and Mental Health. *Current Psychiatry Reports*. September 14, 2014. Vol. 19, Art. 77. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11920-017-0832-4>

³Major B, Appelbaum M, Beckman L, et al. Abortion and mental health: Evaluating the evidence. *American Psychologists*. 2009. Vol. 63, Iss. 9, pp. 863–890. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0017497>

⁴Jennifer L. Kerns JL, Brown K, Nippita S, et al. Society of Family Planning Clinical Recommendation: Management of hemorrhage at the time of abortion. *Contraception*. January 2024. Vol. 129. 110292. https://societyfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SFP_Clinical-Recommendation_Management-of-hemorrhage-at-the-time-of-abortion_2023_Final.pdf



⁵“Induced Abortion and Breast Cancer Risk.” Committee Opinion No. 434 (June 2009, reaffirmed 2021), *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2009/06/induced-abortion-and-breast-cancer-risk>

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⁶Beral V, Bull D, Doll R, et al. Breast cancer and abortion: collaborative reanalysis of data from 53 epidemiological studies, including 83,000 women with breast cancer from 16 countries. *Lancet*. March 27, 2004. Vol. 363, Iss. 9414, pp. 1007-1016. [http://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(04\)15835-2](http://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(04)15835-2).

⁷Vayssièrea C, Gaudineauc A, Attali L, et al. Elective abortion: Clinical practice guidelines from the French College of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (CNGOF). *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology*. March 2018. Vol. 222, pp. 95-101. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2018.01.017>

⁸Wallach EE, Huggins GR, Cullins VE. Fertility after contraception or abortion. *Fertility and Sterility*. October 1990. Vol. 54, Iss. 4, pp. 559-573. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0015-0282\(16\)53808-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0015-0282(16)53808-4)

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⁹Theard G. Abortion Myths: Debunking Common Abortion Misconceptions. Metropolitan Family Planning Clinic. August 28, 2025. <https://mfpclinic.com/abortion-myths-debunking-common-abortion-misconceptions>

¹⁰*American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists*. Facts Are Important: Identifying and Combating Abortion Myths and Misinformation. Accessed March 16, 2026. <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/identifying-combating-abortion-myths-misinformation>

¹¹Kurtzman L. Nearly All Women Say It Was the Right Decision, Study Finds. *UCSF*. January 13, 2020. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/01/416421/five-years-after-abortion-nearly-all-women-say-it-was-right-decision-study>