



## HB 1281

### 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

### OPPOSE

Women's Liberation Front OPPOSES HB 1281 which provides that an abortion may not be performed before an ultrasound, within 24 hours after having an ultrasound, and cannot be performed further than 100 miles from the facility where the abortion is to take place.

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 shall be placed upon women and girls.

Many anti-choice organizations intentionally mislead the public by promoting lies and misinformation to support their ideologically driven positions that are unsupported by either science or evidence. The insistence on ultrasounds, often dressed as "in the interest of informed consent," is one of their frequent assertions.

In reality, ultrasounds are medically unnecessary and adds to the cost of abortion,<sup>1</sup> which may be the actual intent in requiring them. What's more, women who choose to have an abortion see them as unnecessary and an invasion of privacy.<sup>2</sup> While anti-choice organizations often claim 80% or greater percentages of women decide against abortion after being made to see an ultrasound of their fetus, they do not present their studies to support their claims and instead, cite their own opinions as sources.<sup>3</sup> To their credit, most anti-choice organizations are very transparent about their political and religious beliefs, though the lack of transparency with their evidence is highly suspect. By comparison, one study found that when women deciding on abortion view an ultrasound, 98.4% choose the terminate<sup>4</sup> and this study was made readily available to the general public through news outlets.<sup>5,6</sup> Ultrasounds before an abortion serves no medical purpose and is unnecessary emotional blackmail in an attempt to deter a woman from her choice to end her pregnancy.

Further, the restriction on distance from the facility in which an abortion may be performed is another intentional hindrance to women seeking safe and legal abortion. Since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court



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decision, women and girls have found themselves needing to travel a greater distance to seek care.<sup>7</sup> Distance limitations to a facility in policy serves no medical purpose but is a frequent tactic employed to cut-off women from asserting her reproductive sovereignty and to push her further along a pregnancy she doesn't want.

Women's Liberation Front does not support *any* ideologically or politically driven medical policies that have no basis in science and are unsupported by evidence, especially when they ultimately serve to harm and dehumanize girls and women.

Women's Liberation Front urges Maryland's general assembly to decline passage of HB 1281 to protect women and girls from impediments to their humanity and reproductive sovereignty.

Sincerely,

Women's Liberation Front

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<sup>1</sup>Russo J. Mandated Ultrasound Prior to Abortion. *AMA Journal of Ethics*. April 2014. <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/mandated-ultrasound-prior-abortion/2014-04>

<sup>2</sup>Podolski V, Gemzell-Danielsson K, Marions L, et al. Preabortion ultrasound - a patient perspective. *European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care*. October 2023, Vol. 28, Iss. 5, pp. 268-273. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13625187.2023.2249158>

<sup>3</sup>Caring Network. Why Over 80% of Abortion-Minded Women Choose Life After an Ultrasound. Accessed March 16, 2026. <https://caringnetwork.com/why-over-80-of-abortion-minded-women-choose-life-after-an-ultrasound/>

<sup>4</sup>Gatter M, Kimport K, Foster DG, et al. Relationship between ultrasound viewing and proceeding to abortion. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. January 2014. Vol. 123, Iss. 1, pp. 81-87. <http://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000000053>

<sup>5</sup>News24. Viewing ultrasound doesn't change abortion plans. January 31, 2014. <https://www.news24.com/Life/viewing-ultrasound-doesnt-change-abortion-plans-20140131>

<sup>6</sup>Mohney G. Viewing Ultrasound Unlikely to Deter Women from Abortion, Study Finds. ABC News. January 31, 2014. <https://abcnews.com/Health/viewing-ultrasound-deter-women-abortion-study-finds/story?id=22320188>



<sup>7</sup>Rader B, Upadhyay UD, Sehgal NKR, et al. Estimated Travel Time and Spatial Access to Abortion Facilities in the US Before and After the Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Decision. JAMA Network. November 1, 2022. Vol. 328, No. 20, pp. 2041-2047.

<http://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2022.20424>

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