



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Public Health – Abortion – Informed Consent

Bill Number(s): HB1401

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: March 16, 2026

Submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Director of the
Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

House Health Committee

The Hon. Heather Bagnall, Chair
The Hon. Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully opposes House Bill 1401.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs was established by the Maryland General Assembly to assess the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ Marylanders and to provide recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies on policies that promote equity, safety, and inclusion.

House Bill 1401 would require health care providers to deliver specific information and obtain written informed consent before performing a procedure to terminate a pregnancy. While informed consent is an essential component of ethical medical care, health care providers are already required to obtain informed consent consistent with established medical standards and professional practice.

By prescribing specific language and risks that must be communicated in statute, this bill introduces rigid requirements that may not reflect current medical consensus or the individualized nature of patient care. Medical decisions are best guided by clinical expertise and the needs of the patient, rather than legislative mandates that may require providers to present information in ways that do not align with accepted medical practice.

For LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, including transgender men and nonbinary individuals who may seek reproductive health care, additional statutory requirements can contribute to stigma and create uncertainty in already sensitive medical settings. Many individuals in these communities already face barriers to accessing affirming and competent care.

The Commission’s recent statewide [LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment](#) found that over **47% of respondents experienced obstacles or delays in receiving health care in Maryland, and 49% reported sometimes or always avoiding medical care due to anticipated discrimination.** Policies that introduce additional procedural requirements or uncertainty in reproductive health care settings risk compounding these barriers.

Maryland has taken important steps to protect access to reproductive health care and ensure patients can make decisions about their health in consultation with qualified providers. The Commission believes policies that impose statutory requirements on medical counseling without clear public health benefit risk interfering with the patient–provider relationship and discouraging individuals from seeking care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges an **unfavorable report on House Bill 1401.**

Reference:

Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs. (2026). *Maryland LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment: Preliminary Findings Report* (in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore).

[Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs](#)

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