



**Maryland Commission  
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

**Bill Title:** Health – Abortion Data – Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Bill Number(s):** HB0714

**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

**Date:** March 16, 2026

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

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**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 0714.

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 0714 would require the Maryland Department of Health to submit abortion-related data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention upon request. While data collection can play an important role in public health research, this bill raises concerns about patient privacy and the potential misuse of sensitive health information in the current national landscape surrounding reproductive health policy.

In recent years, reproductive health data has increasingly been the subject of political and legal scrutiny in some states. Expanding requirements to share abortion-related data with federal entities could create new risks if that information is later used to support policies or actions that restrict access to care or target providers and patients.

These concerns are particularly relevant for LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, including transgender men and nonbinary individuals who may seek reproductive health care. Many already face barriers accessing affirming and confidential medical services. Policies that raise uncertainty about how sensitive health information may be collected, shared, or used could discourage individuals from seeking needed 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**.

Maryland has taken significant steps to protect reproductive freedom and patient privacy. Policies that expand the collection or transmission of sensitive health data without a clearly articulated public health benefit risk undermining trust in the health care system and may disproportionately affect communities that already face barriers to care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges an **unfavorable report on House Bill 0714**.

**Reference:**

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