
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Health Committee

Bill: House Bill 1401 - Public Health – Abortion – Informed Consent

Hearing: March 19, 2026

Position: Unfavorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *House Bill 1401 - Public Health – Abortion – Informed Consent*. The bill would require clinicians to provide information that is inaccurate about the potential risks associated with abortions. Specifically, it claims that abortion increases the risk of depression, breast cancer, infertility, future pregnancies, and “regret”.

These statements are not supported by medical evidence and contradict the consensus of major medical authorities, including the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#). Serious complications from abortion are exceedingly rare; According to [StatPearls](#) only about 2% of abortions nationwide are estimated to result in complications, and most of these complications are considered minor. Additionally, the bill targets clinician consent requirements that are already addressed through standard clinical consent standards.

According to ACOG, the risks listed in the bill are scientifically disproven:

- Abortion does not increase the risk of depression or other mental health conditions.
- Abortion does not increase the risk of breast cancer.
- Abortion does not harm fertility or future pregnancies.
- “Regret” is not a medical complication.

Requiring clinicians to present these falsehoods as “risks” is medically inaccurate. Patients deserve honest, evidence-based information, not fear-inducing statements that distort their decision-making and stigmatize their care. Marylanders should be able to make medical decisions about abortion without fear and stigmatization.

We ask for an unfavorable report on House Bill 1401. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Erin Bradley at erin.bradley@ppm.care.