

HB 714: Health - Abortion Data - Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 714** during committee consideration or floor votes.

Accurate, consistent, and nationwide abortion data is essential for public health monitoring, policy evaluation, and understanding trends in maternal and reproductive health. The CDC has collected this information voluntarily from states for decades, but Maryland has not consistently participated at the same level as many other states. Joining the CDC's surveillance system would allow Maryland's data to contribute to national benchmarks, help identify disparities, track safety outcomes, and inform evidence-based improvements in health care delivery—without compromising patient privacy (all data remains de-identified and aggregated).

Transparency and participation in federal public health surveillance are not political statements; they are responsible practices that benefit all Marylanders by improving our understanding of reproductive health trends and outcomes. There is no legitimate reason for Maryland to continue withholding this data when other states routinely report it.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 714** and help ensure Maryland fully participates in the CDC's national abortion surveillance system.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important public health data transparency and accountability issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals