

SB0302 Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act) Maryland Legislative Session 2026.

Position: Favorable.

I was adopted during infancy from Taiwan and received my Certificate of Citizenship a few years later in 1995. I am also an Autistic and transgender bisexual woman. As someone who was adopted during infancy and part of the developmental disability community (personally and professionally), I am a strong and consistent supporter of life from the womb to the tomb.

To quote the Maryland Catholic Conference testimony for a similar bill in a past legislative session,

"Life begins at conception, and every unique and irreplaceable human life deserves protection. Many [pregnant people] struggle with fertility, and for those who conceive, pregnancy is often accompanied by profound gratitude and recognition of life's inherent value. Any form of coercion or force that compels a [pregnant person] to ingest abortion-inducing medication is immoral..... This ease of access makes it alarmingly possible for [pregnant people], particularly victims of domestic violence, to be coerced into unwanted abortions."

[\(https://www.mdccatholic.org/sb0933-criminal-law-causing-ingestion-of-an-abortion-inducing-drug-prohibition-womens-freedom-from-coercion-act/\)](https://www.mdccatholic.org/sb0933-criminal-law-causing-ingestion-of-an-abortion-inducing-drug-prohibition-womens-freedom-from-coercion-act/)

When a pregnant person gets an elective abortion, absent any life-threatening pregnancy-related complications, it terminates the life of a living baby. Pregnant people who are not in a position to raise their babies upon birth should be given support regarding adoption. It is important instead to focus on the circumstances that lead pregnant people to an elective abortion. If cost of living, availability of adoption resources, cost of childcare and tuition, cost of health insurance,, expanding services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities diagnosed in the womb, and issues surrounding sexual assault and rape then the circumstances that lead to elective abortions would decrease.

Abortion is also a disability issue. It is important for disability advocates and pro-life advocates to work together. In the developmental disability community, pregnant parents often wind up terminating the

pregnancy of their pre-born babies when they receive a prenatal diagnosis of a developmental disability, such as down syndrome. An elective abortion, such as disability selective abortion, kills disabled babies. It sends a message of ableism and disability discrimination.

(<https://ypld.democratsforlife.org/index.php/learn/intersectionality/abortion-and-ableism>
<https://secularprolife.org/2025/11/pressure-to-abort-for-prenatal-down-syndrome-diagnosis/>,
https://mcgrath.nd.edu/assets/345188/expert_guide_by_mary_o_callaghan.pdf
<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2022/04/29/autism-abortion-prenatal-testing-242895/>,
<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/05/28/why-dont-pro-life-and-disability-rights-groups-work-together-more-often/>,
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-01/iceland-prenatal-testing-down-syndrome-ethics/103781058>)

Maryland provides several resources to support children with developmental disabilities through the MD State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

In my personal and professional experience working in the developmental disability field, I support people who receive Medicaid-funded support and often their families and caregivers rarely learn about Autism or other developmental disabilities from people with lived experience. Down Syndrome and Autism are not diseases. People with Down Syndrome and Autistic people have great support systems here in Maryland with IEPs in schools and Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers to support them in their homes and communities.

On a side note. As a transgender woman, gender affirming care and being able to live congruently with my gender identity has been life-saving. There have been plenty of reports to indicate lack of access to gender affirming care and acceptance leads to suicide and suicide is not pro-life.

(<https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>,
<https://www.democratsforlife.org/index.php/issues/assisted-suicide>)

I ask that you take measures to protect life from the womb to the tomb and I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lizzy Graham (pronouns she/her)
Democrat
Silver Spring, MD