



**BILL NUMBER:** SB 302

**TITLE:** Hospitals - Emergency Medical Conditions - Procedures

**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings

**HEARING DATE:** February 5, 2026

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

Reproductive Justice Maryland Action was formed to champion reproductive justice as a fundamental human right for all Marylanders. We believe that everyone deserves the freedom to make informed decisions about their bodies, health, and futures, free from discrimination, coercion, and barriers. While we are gravely concerned about reproductive coercion, SB 302 is not the answer.

As advocates of reproductive justice, we do not ever want to see any person forced or coerced into terminating a pregnancy against their will. We fully support each person's right to decide whether to continue a pregnancy. Reproductive coercion is a serious issue that deserves to be addressed thoughtfully and completely.

Reproductive coercion takes three main forms: pregnancy coercion, birth control sabotage, and abortion coercion.<sup>1</sup> SB 302 purports to address only the latter of these. A serious effort to confront reproductive coercion would deal with partners whose abusive tactics result in the victim getting and staying pregnant, which is far more common than coerced abortion.<sup>2</sup> Abusers know that once their victims are pregnant, it is much harder for them to leave the relationship. At best, two people who share a child are legally tied together for 18 years, and abusers exploit this every day.

If forced or coerced ingestion of an abortion pill were a major tactic used by abusers, one may have expected to see less of it after *Dobbs* was decided in 2022. After *Dobbs*, many states have used the fullest extent of both criminal and civil law to deny access to abortion, including abortion pills. Reduced availability of abortion pills should lead to fewer victims reporting reproductive coercion if abortion pills are to blame. However, the

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<sup>1</sup> Grace KT, Anderson JC. Reproductive Coercion: A Systematic Review. *Trauma Violence Abuse*. 2018 Oct;19(4):371-390. doi: 10.1177/1524838016663935. Epub 2016 Aug 16. PMID: 27535921; PMCID: PMC5577387.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

complete opposite has happened. In the year after *Dobbs*, the number of callers reporting reproductive coercion to the National Domestic Violence Hotline nearly doubled.<sup>3</sup>

SB 302 is an attempt to put abortion pills in their own category when Maryland already criminalizes tampering with someone else's food or drink,<sup>4</sup> as well as dispensing of prescription drugs by someone without the proper medical authority to do so.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, SB 302 does nothing to address the most common tactics of reproductive coercion. Reproductive Justice Maryland Action urges an unfavorable report.

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<sup>3</sup> Gerson, Jennifer. "Domestic Violence Calls about "Reproductive Coercion" Doubled after the Overturn of Roe." The 19th, 18 Oct. 2023, [19thnews.org/2023/10/domestic-violence-calls-reproductive-coercion-dobbs-decision/](https://www.the19th.org/2023/10/domestic-violence-calls-reproductive-coercion-dobbs-decision/).

<sup>4</sup> MD Code, Criminal Law, § 3-214

<sup>5</sup> MD Code, Criminal Law, § 5-701