

Testimony on House Bill 1131 – Favorable  
HB1131 – Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions  
(Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)  
House Judiciary Committee  
March 03, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Koul, and I am a constituent of District 31. I am writing **in support of HB1131 – Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)**.

I can't believe what our country has come to where there needs to be a bill like this.

There are many people who are unaware of what is happening in states where the legislatures are free to strip people of their bodily autonomy. Laws are terrorizing pregnant people and doctors alike; the ripple effects are enormous. There is little press coverage on what is happening; we must rely on local news sources and dedicated activists like Jessica Valenti.<sup>1</sup> She states: “There have been over 400 pregnancy-related arrests since the end of *Roe*, and a Pregnancy Justice [report](#)<sup>2</sup> shows that nearly half of states have laws that criminalize the disposal of pregnancy loss remains, non-reporting of pregnancy loss remains, and the transportation or concealment of these remains. Some of these laws are centuries-old, dating back to the 1600s and efforts to punish “loose” women.” Here are just a few headlines:

#### **Cases of Prosecution (2024–2026)**

- **Nevada Will Pay \$100,000 to a Woman Jailed for Stillbirth. It's Nowhere Near Enough (March 2026):** Patrice Rousseau spent more than two years in a Nevada prison after she lost her pregnancy and buried the remains in her backyard.
- **Kentucky Woman Arrested for Miscarriage (February 2026):** Valenti reported on a woman in Booneville arrested over a year after seeking medical help for a miscarriage—the third such arrest in Kentucky in recent months.
- **Georgia Woman Arrested for Miscarriage (March 2025):** A 24-year-old found unconscious was charged with "concealing a death" and "abandoning a dead body" after placing fetal remains in the trash.
- **Texas "Abuse of a Corpse" Charges Dropped (May 2025):** Charges were finally dropped against Mallori Patrice Strait, who was jailed for five months after miscarrying in a public restroom.

#### **Legislative Efforts to Prosecute (and terrorize)**

- **Tennessee Bill Raises Possibility of Death Penalty (February 2026):** Coverage of an amendment to HB 570 that could classify abortion as criminal homicide, potentially making patients liable for the death penalty.
- **Georgia "Prenatal Equal Protection Act" (March 2025):** Reporting on legislation that would charge abortion patients as murderers, punishable by life in prison.
- **South Carolina "Death Penalty" Bill (2024/2025):** Valenti broke the news that Republican lawmakers introduced legislation making abortion punishable by the death penalty.
- **Alabama Plan to Arrest Patients (2024):** Valenti exposed the Alabama Attorney General's intent to use "chemical endangerment" laws to arrest women taking abortion medication, which led to a public reversal.

Maryland needs to be proactive and protect their citizenry. Please vote yes on HB1131.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
*Dr. Michelle Koul (she/her)*  
Severna Park, MD 21146

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<sup>1</sup> <https://jessica.substack.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pregnancyjusticeus.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/After-Pregnancy-Loss.pdf>