



## Maryland Section

House Judiciary Committee

March 5, 2026

House Bill 1131 – *Public Health – Pregnancy Loss – Prohibited Actions*  
(*Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act*)

### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MD ACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** House Bill 1131. MD ACOG believes this legislation rightfully protects individuals who experience pregnancy loss from undue investigation, civil liability, or criminal prosecution, supports patient privacy, and preserves the integrity of the patient-physician relationship.

House Bill 1131 prohibits investigations, civil liability, or criminal penalties solely on the basis of experiencing a pregnancy loss, except under narrow circumstances involving independent evidence of unrelated criminal conduct or with the individual's consent. The bill's provisions also clarify that mere occurrence of a pregnancy loss cannot alone justify probable cause for search warrants; restrict unwarranted reporting or disclosure of related medical records; and protect providers acting within accepted medical standards from liability.

Unwarranted investigations and mandated reporting of pregnancy loss can dissuade patients from seeking timely care, increase psychological stress, and interfere with the therapeutic relationship. MD ACOG recognizes that miscarriage, stillbirth, and other forms of pregnancy loss are clinically common experiences, and surveillance or punitive actions based solely on these outcomes can deter individuals from accessing necessary health services. House Bill 1131 appropriately limits such actions unless there is clear evidence of unrelated criminal conduct or the patient's informed consent, thereby aligning legal standards with clinical reality.

In the current post-Dobbs environment, legal protections for reproductive health decisions vary by state, and patients may be concerned about privacy and fear of legal consequences. By codifying clear limitations on state investigations and liabilities related to pregnancy loss, House Bill 1131 reinforces that medical care decisions, including those involving early pregnancy loss or pregnancy management, remain grounded in clinical judgment and patient choice.

For these reasons, MD ACOG urges a **favorable report** on House Bill 1131. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of legislation that protects the privacy, dignity, and health of individuals experiencing pregnancy loss.

#### **For more information call:**

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