



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: House Bill 885 - Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act)

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) opposes *House Bill 885 - Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act)*. The bill provides for a felony penalty for anyone who willfully and knowingly causes a pregnant person to take an abortion medication without their consent.

ACNM is opposed to coercion of any type of healthcare decision, including reproductive healthcare decisions involving carrying a pregnancy to term, miscarriage management, and abortion. We are obligated both legally and ethically to obtain informed consent for any healthcare service that we provide. However, we are deeply concerned that the bill's proposed felony penalty could be used to intimidate abortion providers. We have already seen the impact of criminal penalties on the provision of abortion care across the county.

If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.