



Bill No: HB1198
Title: Civil Actions - Coerced Debt - Debtor Protections
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing: March 11, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. [HB1198 - Civil Actions - Coerced Debt - Debtor Protections](#) is a priority on the [2026 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB1131 - Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act) would allow victims of coerced debt at the hands of their abuser to be freed from the debt while allowing the creditor to go after the abusive person who actually caused the debt to be incurred.

The coerced debt bill would assist women by providing legal and financial protections against economic abuse, such as relieving them of the obligation to repay them. These laws empower survivors of abuse to sever financial ties to their abuser by offering a legal framework to prove the debt was incurred fraudulently, which helps them begin to regain financial stability and freedom.

The legislation would provide a framework to prove that debt was incurred as part of a power and control based domestic violence relationship. It would also provide a remedy to creditors who would be able to pursue the abusive person who is actually responsible for the debt.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB1198.

MLAW 2026 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2026 Legislative Agenda*:

AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
AAUW Garrett Branch
American Association of University Women Howard County Branch
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
Campaign for Eneshal Galloway at Large Candidacy
Carroll County Chapter NOW
Crabs On The Shore
Jack and Jill of America Western Maryland Chapter
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)
Maryland NOW
Montgomery County Business and Professional Women
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women
National Association of University Women, Prince George's County
NAUW
Postpartum Support International, Maryland
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
Self-Reflections: Social-Emotional, Behavioral and Advocacy Services, LLC
Stella's Girls, Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Heart Nest
The Rest Of A Life (TROAL)
Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, Patuxent River Chapter
Unrooted Culture
Women's Commission for Baltimore City
Women's Equity Center and Action Network
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis

**As of 2/2/2026*