
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee:	Judiciary Committee
Bill:	House Bill 1146 - Crime of Violence - Medical Facilities and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)
Hearing:	March 5, 2026
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 1146 – Crime of Violence – Medical Facilities and Places of Worship Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)*. This bill would increase penalties for crimes of violence committed in medical facilities and places of worship, two community spaces with deep cultural and communal significance.

PPM health centers provide essential reproductive health care, including abortions to communities across Maryland, and the safety of patients and staff is a core operational priority. [Reports](#) from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) show that since Dobbs, anti-abortion extremists have escalated arsons, invasions, stalking, and death threats against abortion providers. Sadly, this is true in Maryland, [where 24% of providers reported trespassing incidents](#). Additionally, Maryland tied with Michigan as the states with the fourth highest percentage of providers reporting threats of death or violence against the provider or patient.

Violence directed at reproductive health care facilities is intended to intimidate and disrupt the provision of high quality, equitable health care. Every person entering a medical facility should be able to do so in an environment that protects their safety and dignity. Strengthening penalties for violent acts in medical facilities and places of worship affirms that Maryland will not tolerate attempts to endanger people in what the bill deems sacred safe spaces.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland asks for a favorable report on HB 1146. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.