
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee:	Judiciary
Bill: and	House Bill 513 - Hate Crimes and Hate Bias - Definitions of Sexual Orientation Hate Bias Incident
Hearing:	February 10, 2026
Position:	Favorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *House Bill 513 - Hate Crimes and Hate Bias - Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident*. This bill would update Maryland’s definition of “Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident” to improve reporting accuracy, strengthen protections, and clarify the harms experienced by LGBTQIA+ Marylanders.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland is committed to providing inclusive, nonjudgmental and high-quality sexual and reproductive health for all people regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. This commitment is woven into the fabric of the organization and is foundational to the organization’s inclusive approach to healthcare, education, and advocacy. As such, we are proud to stand with our patients and our community in the face of bias, stigma and hate. PPM supports any effort to better track, address and hopefully eliminate incidents of hate bias.

Importantly, this bill strengthens Maryland’s holistic public health by addressing the well-documented mental health impacts of hate crimes and hate motivated harassment¹. Refining these definitions allows state agencies to more accurately track incidents, identify emerging patterns, and direct resources tailored to the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ communities in Maryland.

The Maryland Attorney General has publicly acknowledged that hate crimes are “underreported and underestimated”² and the state’s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) reporting has highlighted inconsistencies in how incidents are classified across jurisdictions³. In order to create and evaluate interventions addressing hate incidents on the basis of sexual orientation, the State must first

¹ Bates, Alex J., and Susan H. Babey. *Experiencing Acts of Hate and Access to Support: Findings From the 2024 California Health Interview Survey*. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, December 2025.

Available at: <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/2025-12/hate-acts-access-to-support-policy-brief-2025.pdf>

² Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Attorney General Brown Announces New Hate Crimes and Hate Bias Incidents Online Portal and Reporting Form, press release, June 4, 2024, <https://oag.maryland.gov/News/Documents/2024/060424a.pdf>.

³ [Hate Crimes | United States Department of Justice | Hate Crimes | Maryland](#)

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have accurate reporting information that is updated to track the current nature of hate bias incidents. Planned Parenthood of Maryland recognizes HB513 as an essential step toward ensuring that every person, especially those disproportionately affected by hate-motivated targeting, can live, safely, with dignity, and without fear or discrimination.

As a provider of sexual and reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood of Maryland sees how hate-based harassment erodes patients' sense of safety, deters them from seeking care, and creates barriers to essential health services; for this and the reasons listed above, Planned Parenthood of Maryland requests a **Favorable** report on HB513. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.