

February 17, 2026

Written Testimony on HB1131

Public Health – Pregnancy Loss – Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)

Judiciary and Health

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the MD Judiciary and Health Committees:

My name is Julie A. Rosen, and I submit this written testimony as an individual resident of Montgomery County, Maryland (MD District 16), and a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, MD State Project Advocacy Committee. I write urge your support of **HB1131**, *Public Health – Pregnancy Loss – Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)*.

I understand that HB1131 is intended to protect against non-medical, unwanted investigations of pregnancy outcomes of women during an already-demanding time of life. In particular, this legislation would prohibit investigation, civil liability, or criminal prosecution for experiencing a pregnancy loss except under specified circumstances that indicate highly probable criminal activity.

As with so many issues of medical treatment and care, I firmly believe that pregnancy outcomes depend on timely, professional, and confidential discussion and determination held between a patient –in this case the pregnant woman—and her medical provider. However, even in the best of care, pregnancies can result in undesired outcomes. Such outcomes may be the result of complex medical, physical, and organic factors, almost always unwanted, but rarely arise from criminal behavior.

It's both my Jewish faith and cultural viewpoint, and my long-held belief that comprehensive bodily autonomy and elimination of barriers to health care is paramount for successful, nourishing, healthful lives. I abhor the notion that the 'state' has rights to interfere with the grieving patient, family, or community of supporters of the woman who is facing the sorrowful outcome. Additionally, healthful lives rely on the ability to access suitable care from qualified health professionals.

Therefore, I am strongly in favor of HB1131's emphasis on the protection of the "individual who experienced pregnancy loss" as well as "certain providers ... who follow generally accepted medical standards" from "investigation, criminal penalty, or civil liability" unless there is independent and unbiased evidence of criminal conduct related to the pregnancy or pregnancy loss.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1131. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Rosen, Ph.D.