



March 3, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
and Members of the Health Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 1131** - Pregnancy Loss – Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act) – **UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members,

There are two human beings involved in a decision to abort. From the point of viability (approximately 23 weeks), a baby can live outside the womb. The right of a woman to control her body and end a pregnancy after viability should not be an automatic mandate that the child die. **A woman's right to end a pregnancy cannot supersede the viable child's right to live.**

The 1,308 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly oppose HB 1131 for these reasons:

- It fails to acknowledge the human right of a viable, about-to-be-born baby to be born.
- It protects sex traffickers and abusers of women and minor girls from investigation and prosecution related to a “pregnancy loss” (including self-administered abortion).
- It requires the consent of the woman to initiate an investigation. Victims are often afraid to acknowledge or request investigation of abuse or rape, especially when a family or household member is involved.
- It prohibits a health care facility or provider of abortion services from reporting suspected abuse or coercion related to a “pregnancy loss”.
- It ignores the possibility that the “pregnancy loss” could be due to mail-order abortion pills ingested by trickery or coercion.
- It criminally penalizes law enforcement, Child Protective Services within the Department of Human Services, a local Department of Child Protective Services, and State and local Departments of Social Services for investigating potential criminal conduct related to a “pregnancy loss” unless they have the consent of the victim and there is “independent evidence of criminal conduct unrelated to the pregnancy or pregnancy loss”.

Under HB 1131, “Pregnancy Loss” is defined as the unintentional or intentional death of a fetus or embryo during pregnancy or labor and includes a miscarriage, a stillbirth and a self-managed abortion. It further states that “Pregnancy Loss” does not include a death that occurs after a live birth. While killing a baby immediately after birth is not a protected action, it appears that deliberately ending the life of a baby during labor or while in the birth canal is legal and protected conduct under HB1131.

HB1131 is destructive of human dignity. It ties the hands of law-enforcement and Child Protective Services. It provides cover to traffickers and abusers. Please give **HB1131** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis  
Legislative Co-Chair  
(443) 295-3989

Sharon Carrick  
Legislative Co-Chair  
(301) 464-1954