

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: House Bill 885 - Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act)

Hearing Date: February 17, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Women's Law Center of Maryland opposes *House Bill 885 - Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act)*. The bill provides for a felony penalty for anyone who willfully and knowingly causes a person to take abortion medication without consent. We are opposed to coercion of any healthcare decisions, including reproductive healthcare decisions about abortion care or carrying a pregnancy. However, the imposition of a criminal penalty would have a chilling effect on the provision of abortion and miscarriage management services in Maryland. There are other legal avenues to address medical coercion.

If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.