

## City of Baltimore

Room 527, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Telephone: (410) 396-4822  
Email: [Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov)



## Councilwoman Phylcia R. L. Porter,

### District 10

CHAIR: Public Health and Environment

MEMBER:

Labor and Workforce

Public Safety

Transportation and Land Use

March 1, 2026

Bill Title: HB1131: Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)

Position: Favorable

To: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, Judiciary Committees

Dear Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB1131, a bill that strengthens protections and preserves the dignity of women who have experienced the trauma of pregnancy loss.

The loss of a child is unimaginable, and no mother anticipates enduring it. Yet when pregnancy loss occurs, investigations can sometimes compound that grief, leaving women feeling scrutinized during one of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. While medical professionals may seek to review perinatal deaths, miscarriages, or stillbirths, inconsistent data and unclear standards should not justify violations of privacy or breaches of patient confidentiality.

HB1131 establishes clear, evidence-based criteria for when investigations may occur, protecting women's autonomy while ensuring accountability. By setting defined standards, this bill works to reduce bias and prevent disproportionate scrutiny of certain communities, particularly women of color. In 2025, my office launched the Black Maternal Health Agenda to address systemic barriers and racial disparities in healthcare. We understand that inequitable treatment contributes to trauma and mistrust. HB1131 aligns with this work by safeguarding medical privacy, promoting fairness, and ensuring that women experiencing loss are met with compassion rather than suspicion.

At its core, HB1131 affirms that dignity, privacy, and equity must remain central to our healthcare system. By establishing clear protections, we strengthen trust and move Maryland toward more just and humane maternal health policies.

I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phylcia R. L. Porter".

Councilwoman Phylcia Porter, MPH, MSL  
[Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov)  
Chair, Public Health and Environment Committee  
Baltimore City Council - District 10