

March 1, 2026

Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 1131 - Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)

FAVORABLE

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

My name is Heather Reichardt. I am a citizen in Montgomery County and the President of AAUW Maryland (American Association of University Women). We urge you to support *HB 1131, Public Health - Pregnancy Loss - Prohibited Actions (Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act)*

Summary: This legislation is urgently needed to make Maryland's newly enshrined constitutional right to reproductive freedom a real and lived protection for every person who can become pregnant. Across the country, and even here in Maryland, people have been investigated, prosecuted, and punished for the outcomes of their pregnancies, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or self-managed abortion. These cases are not rare; they are part of a disturbing growing national trend that punishes people for their reproductive experiences rather than supporting their health and dignity.

This bill would prohibit criminal or civil penalties based solely on pregnancy outcomes and safeguard providers who deliver compassionate, evidence-based reproductive care.

Protect Maryland women from indiscriminate legal jeopardy for having lost a child.

By supporting HB 1131, you are protecting women from potentially inaccurate accusations regarding the end of their pregnancy. The Maryland health and judicial systems must provide security to all women who need and experience reproductive care, regardless of the details of that care.

We respectfully urge the Health Committee to give HB1131 full consideration and a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

AAUW MD
Heather Reichardt, President
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Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (District 15)