

To Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to HB 1131 entitled the Pregnancy Outcome Protection Act. The bill, which seeks to shield abortion providers from investigation, civil liability, or criminal prosecution related to a pregnancy loss, does nothing to protect women. If passed, HB 1131 would not hold accountable those who bring harm to women and their unborn children, should the woman seek recourse. HB 1131 would offer women no such recourse, particularly when critical safety protocols are overlooked, when abusers contribute to her pregnancy loss but are shielded from accountability through HB 1131. Sadly, HB 1131 only makes Maryland a safe haven for providers without consequence with the woman and her child having to bear all of the consequences.

This bill also is an affront to any parent who has experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth. The bill language in its lack of honesty and transparency seeks to provide such blanket “protections” for all “pregnancy loss,” when it is more directly referring to abortions.

I ask you to please vote “NO” on HB 1131.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Nicole D. Hayes

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