



Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice

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Friend of the WLC

As we close out Black History Month and move into Women's History Month, I can think of no better way of celebrating both than by acknowledging the historic nomination of U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit [Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court](#). If confirmed, Judge Jackson would be the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court. As the WLC actively engages in the judicial selection process here in Maryland, in order to ensure a judiciary free of bias and reflective of our great state, we recognize the [significance of having diverse representation on all of our Courts](#) and commend the nomination of Judge Jackson.

Of course, the end of February also means that we are now more than half way through the 2022 legislative session. As we get closer to cross-over day, we will see more voting sessions scheduled as legislators hurry to ensure their bills are voted out of the originating chamber in time to get a hearing across the street.

Here is a summary of just some of the bills we've been supporting that we've seen movement on. Stay tuned for more to come!

[SB 31 - Public Information Act – Inspection of Records From Body-Worn Digital Recording Devices](#) – received a Favorable Report by the Judicial Proceedings Committee and will now go to the Senate floor for a vote.

[HB 153](#) and [SB 33 - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense](#) – while the House has passed this bill, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee recently voted it “Favorable With Amendments” and it is now headed to the Senate floor for a vote. We remain concerned about the harmful amendments adopted by JPR and look forward to the [conference committee](#) process to come.

Similarly, [HB 148](#) and [SB 328 – Criminal Law – Stalking – Definition](#) have both passed their respective chambers, but in different forms. However, the differences between the versions passed by the House and Senate are minor and we are confident that they will be reconciled and that this bill will ultimately get passed. We are grateful to [Delegate Bartlett](#) and [Senator Waldstreicher](#) for their leadership – please show them your appreciation!

[SB 71 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy](#) and [SB151 – Hate Crimes - False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer](#) have both passed the Senate. The House versions have had their hearings but have not yet been voted on.

[HB 70 - Courts – Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation](#) – has passed the House and will be heard in the Senate next, where the cross-file still remains.

[SB 450 - Harassment and Sexual Harassment - Definitions - Employment Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training](#) has passed the Senate again unanimously this year. Last year this bill, although filed only in the Senate, passed the Senate and made it through the House Economic Matters committee only to run out of time on the House floor on Sine Die. This year there is a House cross-file, [HB 1393](#), which was unfortunately introduced after the House Bill Introduction Date and as such remains in the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

And finally, [HB 1171 – Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty](#), [HB 937 – Abortion Care Access Act](#), and [HB 952 – Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act](#) were all set to be voted on in the Health and Government Operations Committee this past Friday but have been held over until this Friday, March 4th. The members of that Committee still need to [hear from you](#) in support of these important reproductive rights bills!

Of course, there are still bills being heard in Committee even as the floor votes are heating up. This week we will be supporting [HB 1080 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women \(Healthy Babies Equity Act\)](#) - a bill to ensure pregnant individuals get the prenatal health care they need, regardless of their immigration status, [SB 887 - Primary and Secondary Education - Title IX - Policies and Procedures \(Hear Our Voices Act of 2022\)](#) - a bill to require the State Board of Education develops policies and procedures to handle cases of sexual misconduct in violation of Title IX, plus many more!

Onward,

The WLC Advocacy Team

P.S. As always, if you appreciate the work we do, whether in the General Assembly or through our [direct legal services](#) across the State, [give here!](#) And if this email was forwarded to you by a friend, make sure to sign up for our legislative alerts [here!](#)

GIVE TODAY

Sponsorships and tickets now available for our 50th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Ceremony!

About The Women's Law Center of Maryland

The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.

Give Today

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.

