



Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice

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Friend of the WLC

The sad truth is, in 2021 the United States saw the highest number of abortion restrictions made law in a single year and given everything we know about the pipeline of cases at the Supreme Court, those numbers will only grow in years to come. But while we watch the continued attacks on abortion rights across the country, they are thankfully strong here in Maryland. The Maryland legislature has vigilantly and successfully defended against an onslaught of attempts to chip away at those rights over the past several decades. Unfortunately, that has only emboldened abortion opponents who have filed over a dozen bills this session in an attempt to prevent women from making their own decisions and receiving the reproductive health care they need and deserve.

In short, those bills make it clear that some legislators do not trust women.

But we know that by trusting women, we are empowering them to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. And this week, the WLC will be standing strong with partner organizations in opposition to the litany of bills that all share one purpose: taking away a woman's right to abortion care.

At the same time, I am happy to report that [HB937 - the Abortion Care Access Act](#), and [HB1171 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty](#) (which would create a constitutional amendment protecting reproductive rights in Maryland) both passed out of the Health and Government Operations Committee this week. Expect to see them both up for a floor fight this week!

Please make sure to contact YOUR delegate and urge them to SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS AND ACCESS IN MARYLAND! (Not sure who your delegate is? Find out [HERE](#)).

The following are anti-choice bills being heard this week in the Health and Government Operations Committee:

[HB1213 Human Services - Commission on Fatherhood \(Fatherhood Protection Act\)](#) – while not directly related to abortion rights, it is an unfortunate irony that House Bill 1213 is once again being heard during a month that should otherwise be spent galvanizing the movement towards gender equity, as the bill is nothing short of a mockery of the progress that has been made throughout the years.

[HB0583 Public Health - Abortions - Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome \(Down Syndrome Dignity Act\)](#) [HB0735 Public Health – Abortion](#)

[HB1139 Public Funds - Prohibition on Expenditures for Abortion \(Abortion Subsidy Prohibition Act\)](#)

[HB1161 Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period](#)

[HB1167 Public Health - Abortions - Coercion \(Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act\)](#)

[HB1230 Unborn Child Protection From Dismemberment Abortion Act of 2022](#)

[HB1317 Health - Informed Consent \(Woman's Right to Know Act\)](#)

[HB1321 Health - Abortions - Reporting Requirement](#)

[HB1360 Public Health - Abortion-Inducing Drugs](#)

[HB1364 Health Care Freedom of Conscience Act](#)

[HB1369 Public Health - Abortions - Standards and Reporting](#)

In addition to the anti-abortion bills being heard this week, the WLC is happy to be supporting some important pieces of legislation:

[SB776 Correctional Services – Pregnancy and Postpartum Support \(Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act\)](#). As women continue to be incarcerated at a higher rate than men, and most incarcerated women are single mothers, it is important that our policies be updated to reflect the

different needs of incarcerated women. This legislation, modeled after successful programs in other jurisdictions, allows the newborn infants of incarcerated women to stay with them, rather than be forcibly separated at birth.

[HB1168/SB849 - Child Custody - Legal Decision-Making and Parenting Time](#) – the House and Senate are both hearing this bill on Thursday this week. This bill would provide a much needed overhaul and update to our custody laws in Maryland, codifying existing Maryland case law regarding custody determinations using the best interests of the child standard. It is the revised product of a more than one year Child Custody Decision-Making Commission on which the WLC participated.

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!](#)

P.P.S. Save the Date for the WLC's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 19th, 6pm, at Live! Casino & Hotel! Join us in presenting the 50th Anniversary Legacy of Leadership Award to The Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge (Ret.), Court of Appeals of Maryland; the 50th Anniversary Power of the Present Award to The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker, The Maryland House of Delegates; and the 50th Anniversary Foundation of the Future Award, to Susan Francis, Executive Director, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. For more information or to buy tickets, click [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.

