



## Celebrating 53 Years of Advancing Justice

### WLC Supports the Equal Rights Amendment!

Yesterday, Marylanders from around our State joined members of our State legislature and Members of Congress support of **SJ1** and **HJ1**, a joint resolution affirming the **Equal Rights Amendment**. This rally, full of vivacious energy, sent a message to our state and federal leaders that **NOW**, more than ever, we need to certify and publish the ERA in our Constitution.



ERA Rally Photos from Top Left: [FreeState Justice](#) representatives, [Camila Reynolds-Dominguez](#), Policy Advocate & Legal Impact Coordinator [middle], [Katie O'Malley](#), [WLC ED](#) [right]; Top Right: Katie O'Malley, WLC ED; Bottom Left: [Claudia Nachega](#), Deputy ED, [Generation Ratify](#); Bottom Right: Carolyn Deol, [Yellow Roses Roots and Shoots](#).

Learn more about the ERA & how to take action from our partners at [NOW Maryland!](#)

*Check out some incredible bills being  
heard this week to make a difference for  
Maryland women!*

**Wednesday February 21st**

#### **SJ1 Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment**

This is the joint resolution urging  
President Biden and Congress to



certify and publish the ERA as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Affirming the ERA will guarantee that women and members of the LGBTQ+ communities are given equal protection under the laws of our nation.

**SJ0001 will be heard on Wednesday, 2/21, at 1 pm!**  
**Click below to [email members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee](#) and ask for a favorable vote.**

**Email Judicial Proceedings Members to support SJ0001**

### **HB691 Legally Protected Health Care- Gender Affirming Treatment**

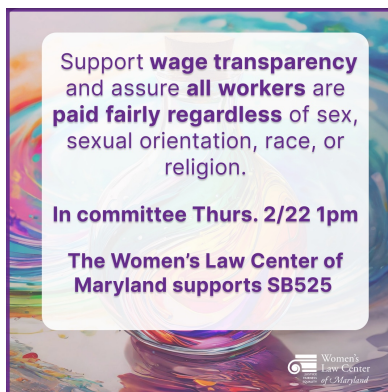
This bill aims to protect all individuals who seek gender-affirming medical care. The bill also protects gender-affirming providers from civil and criminal proceedings. The goal is to allow people to receive medical care in Maryland without fear of civil and or criminal prosecution from outside our State.



**HB691 will be heard on Wednesday, 2/21, at 1 pm. Click below to [email members of the Health and Government Operations Committee](#) urging for a favorable vote.**

**Email Health and Government Operations Committee to support HB691**

## ***Thursday February 22nd***



### **SB525 Labor and Employment- Equal Pay for Equal Work- Wage Range Transparency**

**SB525** will require employers to have open and transparent wage information for all applicants. This process will ensure that everyone is paid equally for equal work, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, race, or religion.

**SB525 will be heard on Thursday, 2/22, at 1 pm!**  
**Click below to [email members of the Senate Finance Committee](#) and ask for a favorable vote.**

**Email Senate Finance Committee Members to support SB525**

### **HB848 Family Law- Child Custody Determinations**

**HB0848** would codify the factors that courts use in determining what is in the best interests of the child in custody cases. This bill will make it far more helpful to self-represented litigants because it will set out the factors that a court must consider in making a custody determination. The bill also requires the court to articulate its findings of fact on the record or to give a written opinion specifying which factors were considered in making the final custody determination.

Codifying factors for determining the **child's best interests, aiding self-represented litigants**, and requiring courts to **articulate findings**.

In committee Thurs. 2/22 1pm

**The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports HB848**



**HB848 will be heard on Thursday, 2/22, at 1 pm!**  
**Click below to email members of the Judiciary Committee and ask for a favorable vote.**

**Email Judiciary Committee Members to support HB848**

We will provide updates on these bills and others we are working on as session progresses. In the meantime, don't forget to let [your legislators](#) know about what issues matter most to you!

Onward together,

**Katie Curran O'Malley**  
Executive Director

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. If you're interested in getting even more information related to the state of reproductive rights, and the legislative package seeking to support abortion care in Maryland, follow the Marylanders for Reproductive Choice coalition, of which the WLC is a member of the steering committee! MRC is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): @mdreprochoice!**

**P.P.P.S. Save the Date for the WLC's Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 7th at 6pm at Citron!**

Have an event you'd like to share with us? Send us an [email!](#)

#### 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.*



Women's Law Center | 102 W. Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 100, Towson, MD 21204

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