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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Oppose**

**House Bill 1227 – Abortion – Ultrasound Requirement**

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 13, 2020

Planned Parenthood of Maryland opposes *HB 1227 – Abortion – Ultrasound Requirement*. This bill requires that physician perform an ultrasound, provide a verbal explanation of what the ultrasound detects, display the ultrasound images so that a woman may view them, and make the fetal heartbeat audible if detected. Before the procedure, the provider must fill out a certification that the requirements have been met.

PPM opposes this measure because

- **It is designed to intimidate women.** A woman does not have a choice on viewing or hearing the results of the ultrasound. As the bill delineates, her only option is to “avert(ing) her eyes from any ultrasound images” and “request(ing) that the volume be turned down or off”.
- **Clinical Protocols Should Be Determined by the Clinical Community:** Clinicians, with the guidance of peer-reviewed research” should determine clinical protocols. It is not appropriate to legislate clinical protocols because they change.
- **Patients already are guaranteed access to all medical records, including ultrasounds.** Federal statute already requires physicians and other health care providers to share any part of a medical record with a patient, including ultrasounds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. We urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1227.