



**Committee:** House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1317 – Health – Informed Consent

**Hearing:** March 11, 2022

**Position:** Oppose

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) opposes *House Bill 1317 – Health – Informed Consent*. The bill would impose at least a 24-hour waiting period for abortion care under the guise of “informed consent”. The bill also provides substantial criminal penalties for physicians who violated the terms of the bill, thus creating a chilling effect on the number of practitioners willing to provide abortion care services. The Maryland Affiliate of ACNM is opposed to legislation designed to interfere with an individual’s autonomy in making reproductive health decisions. In 2019 after state legislatures introduced a record-breaking number of anti-reproductive health measures, ACNM – National issued a statement that “reaffirms its commitment to individual patient autonomy across the spectrum of reproductive health, including abortion.”<sup>i</sup> Therefore, we oppose this legislation and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup><https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007327/ACNM%20Opposition%20Statement%20to%20Threats%20to%20Abortion%20Care%20March%202019.pdf>