

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

**RE: In Support of House Bill HB1043 – Public Health - Pregnancy - Coercion
(Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act)**

March 14, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we enthusiastically support Maryland **House Bill HB1043**. This testimony seeks to express our rationale for support of **HB1043**.

House Bill HB1043 seeks to prohibit an individual from committing or threatening certain actions with the intent of coercing a pregnant woman to have an abortion. Research indicates that violence against pregnant women is a serious issue. Many women report that they were coerced into abortions and have suffered grievous physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual harm as a result. In fact, 3 in 4 women say they felt coerced into their abortion by a partner, parent, clinic worker or other authority figure.

This bill also protects women from sex trafficking as it requires 24-hour waiting periods before abortion and reporting of suspected abuse. More women and victims of sex trafficking can receive treatment for coercive abuse if they are informed of their rights and are given information concerning treatment and protection options.

We strongly support HB1043 and ask the Committee members to favorably consider this bill.

Respectfully,

Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson
Long-time residents of MD District 17