



**MDRTL State Legislative Advocacy
2022 Maryland General Assembly
“Legislative Wrap-Up”**

Maryland Right to Life (MDRTL) has been the leading voice on pro-life policy in Maryland for nearly 50 years. We mobilize public policy campaigns and lobby on behalf of those whose lives are threatened and cannot defend themselves. With the help of our supporters and volunteers throughout the state, MDRTL has successfully defended against 64 legislative threats to life, provided testimony on 106 bills and sent over 77,000 constituent letters supporting life during the 2022 state legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS - On April 11, 2022 the 442nd session of the Maryland General Assembly came to a close. The session posed particular challenges to freedom of speech and public participation because of Covid-19 virus related restrictions. In all, lawmakers introduced 2,500 pieces of legislation.

Through the proven strength of the organization, MDRTL was able to effectively discourage legislative support for the reintroduction of the **Physician Assisted Suicide** bill again this year! Reportedly, Senator Jeffrey Waldstreicher (D-Montgomery County) was prepared to sponsor the PAS bill, but was discouraged from introducing it by his fellow senators due to anticipated opposition.

MDRTL’s dedicated lobbyist provided testimony against 31 bills that posed a direct threat to life. Of those bills, MDRTL was successful in helping to defeat 25 deadly bills. MDRTL also was successful in soliciting a legislative sponsor for the introduction of 8 pro-life bills, including the **Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act** and the **Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act**.

- * **MDRTL supporters sent 43,703 letters to legislators to stop the “Reproductive Freedom” Amendment.**
- * **MDRTL supporters sent 10,853 letters to legislators in opposition to the “Abortion Care Access Act”.**
- * **MDRTL supporters sent 5,115 letters to legislators to stop Physician Assisted Suicide.**

MDRTL 2022 BILL OPPOSITION HIGHLIGHTS:

PRO-LIFE WIN! Abortion Amendment to Constitution – FAILED. HB 1171 *Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty* –House Speaker Adrienne Jones (D-Baltimore County) MDRTL has defeated 3 attempts to create a fundamental right to abortion in the state Constitution in the last 4 sessions. (Busch "Bodily Integrity" 2019, Lee "Privacy" 2020, Jones "Reproductive Freedom" 2022)

PRO-LIFE WIN! Infanticide Legalized – FAILED. House Bill 626/Senate Bill 669 *Pregnant Persons Freedom Act*, Delegate Nicole Williams (D- Prince George’s) and Senator Will Smith (D- Montgomery). MDRTL was directly responsible for the failure of this bill to be brought for a vote. MDRTL mobilized broad-based opposition to this bill which would have legalized infanticide in the first month of life.

PRO-LIFE WIN! Attack on Religious Freedom - WITHDRAWN. HB 181 - *Declaration of Rights - Religious Freedom, Religious Tests, and Oaths and Affirmations*- Delegate Terri Hill (D-Baltimore and Howard Counties). MDRTL and supporters defeated this attempt to remove all mention of God from the MD Constitution and Declaration of Rights. If enacted, religious freedoms and rights of conscience would be under attack across the board. (MDRTL helped to defeat 2 additional bills, HB 50 and HB 142, that threatened rights of conscience for hospitals and healthcare providers.)

PRO-LIFE WIN! Attack on Pro-Life Speech and Action - DEFEATED HB70/SB315 *Courts – Civil Actions – Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation* – Senator Shelly Hettleman (D-Baltimore County) and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg (D-Baltimore City). MDRTL defeated this bill twice in two years, that would have allowed mass media and others to target pro-life speech through litigation by depriving an affirmative legal defense.

PRO-LIFE WIN! Physician Assisted Suicide – HELD BACK. Worked collaboratively to prevent introduction.

MDRTL 2021 BILL SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Maryland Right to Life (MDRTL) identified legislative sponsors to introduce important pro-life legislation this session. Working alongside pro-life legislative leaders, MDRTL provided expert witness testimony through leading pro-life advocates, physicians and lawyers.

Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act - House Bill 1360, **Delegate Dan Cox** (R-Frederick and Carroll Counties)- Establishes a standard safety protocol for the distribution and use of chemical abortion pills.

Non-Discrimination in Health Care Coverage Act - House Bill 903, **Delegate Dan Cox** – Prevents health care providers from denying medical care based on discriminatory Quality of Life Assessments (QALYs).

Abortion Subsidy Prohibition Act – House Bill 1139, **Delegate Chris Adams** (R- Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties)- Prohibits the use of public tax dollars as subsidies to abortion providers.

Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act – House Bill 1167, **Delegate Sue McComas** (R- Harford County) – Prevents abortion coercion and implements enforcement standards and reporting requirements.

Maryland Child Protection Act – House Bill 1214, **Delegate Sue McComas** – Protects minor girls from abortion coercion, sexual abuse and exploitation by strengthening parental notice requirements, establishing reporting requirements and enforcement standards.

Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act – House Bill 1230, **Delegate William Wivell** (R – Washington County). Prevents the inhumane practice of dismemberment abortion.

Woman’s Right to Know Act – House Bill 1317, **Delegate April Rose** (R – Carroll County). Requires abortionists to provide women information about developing child and abortion risks for informed consent before abortion.

Maryland Parental Involvement Enhancement Act – Senate Bill 891, **Senator Mary Beth Carozza** (R - Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico). Strengthens parental notice and consent requirements for any medical procedure performed on a minor child, including abortion.

Maryland Right to Life wishes to thank all of the legislative leaders who were primary sponsors of these important pro-life bills in the 2022 session.

Please take time to thank them for their courageous efforts!

TOGETHER WE WILL CREATE A PRO-LIFE FUTURE FOR MARYLAND.

For additional information, please contact MDRTL's Legislative Director,
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