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House Health Committee
March 19, 2026
House Bill 49 – *Public Health – Abortion (Heartbeat Bill)*
POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of opposition for House Bill 49.

House Bill 49 is essentially a ban on abortion. It prohibits abortion after a heartbeat is heard (around 6-week gestational age) and would be enforced through a private right of action. Texas enacted SB 8, which essentially mirrors the provisions of House Bill 49 and has created a public health crisis. Oklahoma and Idaho have passed similar bills as well. As a result of the Dobbs decision, Maryland has made protecting reproductive freedom a priority. House Bill 49 runs completely counterproductive to those objectives and undermines the work of this General Assembly. An unfavorable report is requested.

For more information:

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