

2009 Maryland State Legislative Summary

On Monday, April 13, 2009 the Maryland legislature adjourned and we are excited that **HB 925, which would have granted legal rights from the moment of fertilization, died with the close of the legislative session.**

- This dangerous bill was a clear attempt to criminalize abortion in Maryland.
- HB 925 could have had far-reaching consequences, jeopardizing access to birth control and in-vitro fertilization as well as threatening pregnant women's medical care.
- If enacted, the measure would have been placed on the 2010 ballot, and, if the ballot measure passed, it would have amended the Maryland Constitution.

A similar measure was decisively defeated on the ballot in Colorado in 2008, but that did not stop anti-choice forces from introducing similar legislation in states like Maryland, North Dakota, and Montana. Supporters of this strategy made it clear that their intent was to make abortion illegal and establish a legal framework through which to challenge *Roe v. Wade*.

In addition to HB 925, pro-choice allies **also defeated SB 195**. This bill **would have mandated a scripted protocol for abortion providers using ultrasound, inserting politics into dialogue between a woman and her health-care provider.**

- SB-195 wrongly implied that Maryland women are not making informed decisions about abortion.
- Maryland abortion providers provide compassionate care to the women they serve without political interference.
- The supporters of SB-195 misleadingly claimed that the measure would reduce abortion; however, the bill was in fact a thinly veiled attempt to chip away at a woman's right to choose in Maryland.