



Opposition Statement SB499
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We Oppose SB499 as Written

On behalf of our pro-life members across the state, I strongly oppose this bill *as written*. We are concerned that this bill can be used to supply lethal “D-I-Y” abortion pills in vending machines. There must be bipartisan consensus to adopt common sense health and safety measures for girls and women seeking abortion.

Maryland law requires that only licensed physicians may provide abortion services. But this bill could authorize the vending machine distribution of lethal drugs that are intended to end human life, including **abortion-inducing drugs like** mifepristone (common brand name Mifeprex) and misoprostol. These drugs are currently not defined in the Maryland Code and are not included in any of the Schedules for Controlled Dangerous Substances. While the assumption is that these drugs would otherwise be classified as “prescription drugs” requiring administration through a certified prescriber, the abortion industry is working to have these dangerous drugs classified as “**over-the-counter drugs**”, similar to the Plan B “emergency contraceptive pill”, which can be purchased off the store shelf.

Put patients before abortion politics and profits

The state must intervene on behalf of women and girls and refuse to participate in medical negligence. 85% of licensed OB/GYNs refuse to commit abortions. In response to this provider scarcity, the abortion industry is attempting to commercialize “**Do-It-Yourself**” **abortion pills**. The abortion industry’s radical agenda to indiscriminately sell “D-I-Y” abortion pills is *taking abortion further outside the scope of health care* and returning women to the days of “back alley abortions” where women self administer and hemorrhage without medical supervision or assistance.

Adopt Reasonable Health and Safety Standards

Chemical abortion pills are 4 times more dangerous for women than surgical abortion. Complications are under-reported as half of all women experiencing complications seek treatment through emergency rooms rather than prescribing providers. While we oppose all abortion, we strongly recommend that the state of Maryland take some measures to protect the health and safety of girls and women by adopting the current FDA guidelines that require that the distribution and use of mifepristone, the drug commonly used in chemical abortions, to be under the supervision of a qualified healthcare provider because of the drug’s potential for serious complications including, but not limited to, uterine hemorrhage, viral infections, pelvic inflammatory disease, loss of fertility and death.¹

We respectfully urge you to amend this bill to exclude chemical abortion pills or issue an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ As of March 2020, the FDA reported 4,480 adverse events after women used Mifeprex/mifepristone for abortions (Mifeprex/mifepristone --- outcome: abortion/abortion induced). Among these events were 24 deaths, 1,183 hospitalizations, 339 blood transfusions, and 256 infections (including 48 “severe infections”).