



Informational Statement

HB260

State Board of Physicians - Dispensing Permits

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In transferring authority for drug dispensing permits, the Maryland General Assembly should prioritize patient safety over pharmaceutical profits or political agendas.

Removing or loosening safety standards for prescription drugs and especially Controlled Dangerous Substances, will put pregnant women at risk both medically and socially and will lead to the inhumane deaths of countless children.

Any drugs or combination of drugs used to kill a living human fetus including **mifepristone** or "**Mifeprex**" and or used to induce labor of a pregnant woman including **misoprostol**, should be strictly regulated and classified as a **Controlled Dangerous Substance** and its use should be restricted by the State of Maryland for the sake of patient health and safety, only a licensed physician should be authorized to prescribe, administer or distribute these drugs.

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Profits before Patients

Chemical abortions, or "medication" abortions, have become a more prevalent method of abortion in recent years in the United States. In 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under tremendous political pressure removed REM's (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) or safeguards for the health and safety of women when using abortion inducing drugs **mifepristone** and **misoprostol**.

Chemical abortions are 4 times more dangerous for women than surgical abortions. Yet the profit-minded abortion industry has been using chemical abortions since 2000 as a solution to the lack of physicians willing to commit abortions. The Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates that more than 40% of U.S. abortions are chemically induced.

Despite the fact that the Annotated Code of Maryland requires that only a licensed physician can perform an abortion, abortion activists have demanded that health regulations surrounding chemical abortions should be softened or removed, putting abortion profits before patients. They demanded that the Biden administration remove safety requirements against **telabortion** or the remote distribution of abortion pills – removing the requirement for a physician examination and establishing distribution chains for these dangerous drugs, including by pharmacist, non-physicians, doulas and midwives, dentists and even by vending machine.

What is a Chemical Abortion? A more accurate description of "medication abortion" is chemical abortion. A chemical abortion is just that: an abortion induced by chemicals. To "self-manage" a chemical abortion means to induce an abortion on oneself without formal medical supervision, most commonly using the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol.

What is Mifepristone? The name brand drug, Mifeprex, is distributed by Danco Laboratories, LLC, and the generic mifepristone is distributed by GenBioPro, Inc.

Medical Risks Associated with Mifepristone

Various risks, including serious infection and even death, have been connected with mifepristone use and reported to the FDA. 26 women have been killed by these drugs and many more deaths may not have been properly attributed to the drugs.

Proper medical examination is important prior to the distribution of mifepristone because multiple conditions and medications mixed with mifepristone may cause serious complications.

According to the prior FDA REM's, women should not take mifepristone under the following circumstances: "A woman should not take Mifeprex [mifepristone] if it has been more than 70 days since the first day of her last menstrual period, or if she: has an ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy outside of the uterus) has problems with the adrenal glands (the glands near the kidneys) is currently being treated with long-term corticosteroid therapy (medications) has had an allergic reaction to mifepristone, misoprostol or similar drugs has bleeding problems or is taking anticoagulant (blood thinning) drug products has inherited porphyria has an intrauterine device (IUD) in place (it must be removed before taking Mifeprex [mifepristone]). Additionally, according to FDA's mifepristone medication guide, women who do not fall under the above are still at risk of experiencing common and serious side effects after taking mifepristone.

Abortion is not health care

Abortion is not health care. It is a brutal procedure that damages women's physical and mental health and ends the lives of their preborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Maryland law permits only licensed physicians to perform abortions.

Yet recent efforts by radical abortion activist-legislators to authorize **non-physicians to prescribe chemical abortion pills**, is demonstrable evidence that abortion is *not health care*. The recklessly negligent telaboration policies enacted by this Assembly that permit students to obtain dangerous Do-It-Yourself chemical abortion pills through the mail, school health center or vending machines, will subject women to **"back-alley" style abortions** where they hemorrhage and suffer their abortions alone, and flush their babies down toilets. Abortion is not health care but the greatest human and civil rights injustice of all time. The State of Maryland must do better for women and families.

Love them Both

80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children.

Maryland Right to Life, Inc. (MDRTL) supports public policy that recognizes the fundamental value of every human life. 80% of people polled support public policies that support the lives of both mothers and children. Public funding must be prioritized to support programs and services that support life over the *destruction* of life, including prenatal and well-baby care, affordable adoption programs and foster care reform.