

HB0937

Oppose

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus

3010 Evergreen Way, Ellicott City MD 21042

I ask the members of the committee to oppose House Bill 937.

The bill makes significant expenditures every year by establishing a training program for an industry that has no shortage of cash. Given the continuing and increasing shortage of other healthcare professionals like nurses, this seems to be a far less desirable use of the public's money. \$3.5 million per year could be better spent elsewhere.

The bill also relaxes the physician requirement, expanding the number of potential providers in far too broad a way. If we are to believe abortion is health care, we need to treat abortion like we do other forms of health care. One aspect of this is to consider that the complications of either surgical or chemical abortion requires a properly trained physician, as a woman's life may depend on it.

The bill continues to make the mistake of allowing decisions on waiving parental notification to be made solely by one with a financial interest in the decision and (very unlike other health care scenarios) without consequences.

The bill also forces insurance providers to cover abortion without a deductible or copayment. This is an unwarranted burden and interference in the insurance industry, not allowing the marketplace to support plans that either don't cover abortion or cover it as other health procedures, with a copay or deductible. It is a form of using the companies to supplement the state budget with a tax hidden in insurance rates, born by consumers who otherwise would be called taxpayers.

I ask that you return an unfavorable report on House Bill 937 for the reasons outlined above.