

HB 937

Opposed

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I'm Dr. Sandy Christiansen, a board-certified Ob/Gyn licensed in the state of Maryland. I am opposed to the passage of HB 937.

I stand in solidarity with a majority (80%) of obstetricians who are not in favor of abortion on demand and who do not perform abortions.

Becoming an Ob/Gyn physician requires the completion of four years of college, four years of medical school, and four years of a surgical residency in obstetrics and gynecology. Midlevel healthcare professionals are critical members of the healthcare workforce. However, every practitioner must function within the scope of practice of their individual training, licensing, and clinical experience.

When it comes to performing procedures and administering protocols that can be life-threatening, there is a reason why this responsibility lays solely on the shoulders of physicians. Physicians uniquely possess the necessary knowledge base and clinical experience to give patients the best shot at a favorable outcome and a good result.

Study after study documents the increased risk that patients face when in the hands of physicians in training (residents) or even fully trained physicians who lack the experience with a specialized surgical technique such as robotic surgery.

Midlevel healthcare professionals such as nurse practitioners and physician's assistants simply lack the depth of knowledge and the duration of training needed to be equipped to properly handle the complications that arise from induced abortion. The bill doesn't specify if the training is limited to drug-induced abortion, so the door remains open for training these improperly prepared individuals to perform surgical abortions.

If prochoice advocates are truly pro-women, why would they push for women to receive substandard care?

Let me ask you this: if it was your partner or your daughter getting an abortion, would you be equally supportive of her going to an NP as you would a physician? Don't do any less for the citizens of the great state of Maryland.

References

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2. Stulberg DB, Dude AM, Dahlquist I, Curlin FA. Abortion provision among practicing obstetrician-gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2011 Sep;118(3):609-614. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e31822ad973. PMID: 21860290; PMCID: PMC3170127