



OPPOSE HB0937 - TESTIMONY BY KATHY KELLY, DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE OF MARYLAND

Democrats for Life of Maryland, which is a chapter of Democrats for Life of America (DFLA), opposes HB0937, the Abortion Care Access Act, sponsored by Delegate Ariana Kelly and other delegates. Democrats for Life of Maryland has been closely following some gruesome abortion injuries to women which occurred at a late-term abortion facility in Bethesda, Maryland during 2020. That is a practice owned and operated by a licensed physician. We are concerned that HB0937, which would loosen restrictions on who can provide abortions, will lead to more threats to women's health as more abortions are left to the oversight of non-physicians.

In addition, we object to the proposed establishment of an Abortion Care Clinical Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health, and the annual appropriation of \$3.5 million to fund it. We ask why there is not a proposal for a well-funded comprehensive pregnancy and post-pregnancy aid program for women with crisis pregnancies instead? We are concerned that this bill prevents the Department of Health from releasing the name of anyone administering services through the Clinical Training Program, which could hinder public information requests about program deficiencies and injuries. We are also concerned that this bill would protect abortion providers from civil damages or criminal penalties, which is yet another preference for protecting abortionists rather than women. These issues point to a need for more, not fewer, restrictions on abortion for better protection of women's health in the state of Maryland.

Kathy Kelly
Director
Democrats for Life of Maryland
8200 Wisconsin Ave. Apt. 905
Bethesda, MD 20814
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MDDEMS4Life>