



February 9, 2026

This testimony is submitted by Dr. James E. Kelly a Maryland physician of 40 years representing the nationwide **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** that **strongly opposes-- HB 372/SB 169** and urges your **unfavorable report**.

HB 372/SB 169 is a direct attack on physicians and healthcare workers by attacking the **constitutional rights to free exercise of religion** because it forces emergency room physicians to kill pre-born babies against their expert medical judgment, Hippocratic Oath, and consciences.

Doctors regularly treat serious pregnancy complications without intentionally killing a pre-born child and they will continue as they have been for centuries to do everything in their power to treat pregnant mothers who are in need of emergency treatment.

No law in any state prohibits medical intervention to treat miscarriages, ectopic pregnancy or to save the physical life of the mother. This bill will not help any patients nor provide any safeguards to patients that are not already available under current law.

HB 372/SB 169 violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. Honorable physicians, nurses and staff will never submit to being forced against their wills by the government to kill pre-born babies - so the net result of this bill will be physicians and healthcare professionals **quitting** their positions in emergency departments throughout the state of Maryland.

This bill will result in a new government -created **loss** of valuable highly trained and experienced emergency department physicians, nurses, providers and staff. HB 372/SB 169 will increase the already existing severe shortages of qualified medical staff and will decrease access to emergency medical care, and **endanger the health and safety of patients** seeking emergency medical care.

Most abortions are now caused by abortion inducing chemical drugs which are four times more dangerous to the mothers than a surgical abortion. Studies estimate that **11% of mothers who use abortion inducing chemical drugs, like mifepristone, require emergency medical treatment** for a serious complication in a hospital emergency department. At least **36 women have been killed** by abortionists providing abortion inducing chemical drugs. It is this abortion industry created crisis and failure of the abortion industry that this bill covers up **by shifting the medical responsibility, burden and cost of botched abortions and the serious medical /surgical complications of the mothers to the hospital emergency departments at the cost of the Maryland taxpayer.**

HB 372/SB 169 would use this crisis created by the abortion industry by its own **willful and wanton disregard for women's safety to justify unconstitutional religious discrimination and infringement of constitutional rights** of medical providers. Many moral Maryland physicians already feel under siege by forces that continue to try to strip them of their conscience rights. Current law provides inadequate protection to healthcare providers, while statutes currently protect the rights of medical providers to refuse to participate in abortions the law does not protect them from any civil law suits- so they are still at serious risk just for following their consciences or religious beliefs.

Good legislation does not violate the constitutional rights of anyone. Good legislation does not drive good physicians out of the emergency departments or out of the state of Maryland or out of the practice of emergency medicine where they are greatly needed. Good legislation does not abuse medical professionals whom we depend on for our very lives in an emergency. Good legislation does not create a government induced shortage of emergency room physicians and providers. Although not intended by this bill, unconscionable harms to many would be the real consequences of HB 372/SB 169.

And it is for these most urgent reasons that the nationwide **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** strongly urge you and respectfully requests that you return an **unfavorable report on HB 372/SB 169.**