



Informational Statement
HB810 Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Laboratory Tests

By Laura Bogley, JD
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On behalf of our members across the state, we write to inform you that HB810 can be used to advance teleabortion. Teleabortion or “Do-It-Yourself” abortion pills are taking abortion further outside the spectrum of “health care” and returning women to the days of “back-alley” abortions. Chemical abortions are 4 times more dangerous for women than surgical abortion and the state should intervene to adopt reasonable health and safety standards currently required by the Food and Drug Administration(FDA).

As written this bill could force Maryland employers and taxpayers to fund the remote administration of lethal drugs that are intended not to heal, but to end human life, including abortion-inducing drugs like mifepristone and misoprostol, as well as lethal drugs used in Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS). Certain of these drugs are not included as Controlled Dangerous Substances under Maryland’s Criminal Law Article.

Maryland law requires that **only a physician licensed by the state may provide abortion services** (Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. § 20-207 (Enacted 1970; Last Amended 1982), Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. §20-208 (Enacted 1991)). But 85% of licensed OB/GYNs refuse to participate in abortion. Through teleabortion, abortion providers circumvent the physician requirement and distribute chemical abortion pills to women without a physician’s exam or supervision. This bill would shift that burden to pharmacists and expose them to claims of professional negligence.

The abortion industry is aggressively lobbying to remove current FDA guidelines that require the distribution and use of mifepristone, the drug commonly used in chemical abortions, to be under the supervision of a qualified healthcare provider because of the drug’s potential for serious complications including, but not limited to, uterine hemorrhage, viral infections, pelvic inflammatory disease, loss of fertility and death. At least 20% of women using abortion inducing drugs experience serious complications, and half of those women require emergency room intervention. Expanding teleabortion would overburden our emergency personnel at a time when we already are experiencing a shortage in medical personnel and supplies due to Covid-19.

Pregnancy is not a Disease - Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Abortion is never medically necessary and often causes both physical and psychological health complications for women. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey do not perform abortions on their patients is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women’s healthcare. Abortion among people of color has reached **epidemic proportions**.

I appreciate the opportunity to bring you this important information about the dangerous consequences of this bill. Thank you.

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