

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 890, "Abortion Care Access Act"  
Nancy E. Paltell, Ph.D., North Beach, MD

UNFAVORABLE

As a citizen of Maryland, I urge members of the Finance Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee to reject SB 890.

Please do not endanger women by allowing non-physicians to perform abortion surgery.

In 2011, members of the Senate Finance Committee heard several hours of testimony about the numerous women and girls who had been killed or injured during abortions in Maryland. Particularly heartbreaking was the testimony of a Baltimore grandmother who was raising her grandson because his mother, her daughter, died in a Maryland abortion clinic. As a result of this hearing, many stakeholders collaborated with the Office of Health Care Quality to draft regulations to make the previously-unregulated clinics safer for women.

The horrific injuries and deaths that women sustained all occurred at the hands of physicians. To allow non-physicians to perform this type of invasive surgery would expose even more women to the threat of severe injury and death and should be rejected.

Please invest in the future of courageous women who are furthering their education.

Pregnant and parenting high school and college students deserve the support of the community, especially when they choose to carry a pregnancy to term and raise the baby while staying in school. Our society should do more to support their choice to give life to their child. Instead of earmarking money for abortion training, this legislature should invest in women's futures by making it easier for them to stay in school.

A grant program to colleges to enable them to provide safe, clean lactation rooms would benefit nursing mothers. Just as important would be funding for colleges and high schools to provide on-site daycare for students with infants. Three and a half million dollars annually would help many women continue their education by addressing their needs as pregnant or parenting students, needs that are often ignored.

Through the state Medicaid program, Maryland taxpayers already pay several million dollars each year to abort approximately 4,000 healthy babies. Instead of spending more money on abortion, it's time to start supporting the choice of courageous women who choose to continue their education throughout a pregnancy and while parenting an infant.

Women deserve better than abortion. I urge an unfavorable report on SB 890.