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Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am disappointed that this bill SB 0891 Maryland Parental Involvement Enhancement Act, has come up for consideration of this committee. Knowing that there are mentally unsound parents in the world has not deterred the submitters of this bill to require parental notification for medical topics that concern only the patient.

Do I think that abortion is awful? Yes. Even worse when the person requesting it is under the age of 18? Absolutely. However, that is that person's choice whether or not to carry a child to term, or to disclose it to their parents.

Mental issues in minors are likely caused by the very parents this bill seeks to inform! It would render the original legislature a joke.

I know some truly awful parents. I also know twelve-year-olds who I would trust to watch my children. I am for respecting a persons' bodily autonomy, and that includes keeping notification of medical issues in the control of that person, unless they are indeed younger than 12. Making the patient jump through hoops like a psychological evaluation and negating "financial reasons" puts an onerous burden on the patient and is much like anti-abortion bills passed all too often in other states in order to make healthy medical choices out of reach for the people who need them most.

Please vote against Bill SB0891 Maryland Parental Involvement Enhancement Act.

Thank you,

Natasha Finnegan