

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF BILL HB1161  
Health - Abortion - Ultrasound and Waiting Period

TO: Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair  
Pena-Melnyk, and members of the Health  
and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Chris Apple  
7001 Cradlerock Farm Court  
Columbia, MD 21045  
District 13

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For any pregnant person wishing to have an abortion, this bill would impose a waiting period that isn't medically necessary. The language of the bill implies that a person cannot make up their own mind and requires a 24-hour period of reflection mandated by the state. This is demeaning to people desiring an abortion, most of whom have had ample time to make up their minds.

No allowances for medical emergencies are provided in this bill. Sometimes it is medically necessary to perform an abortion immediately - if the parent's life were in danger, for example. Under this bill, the clinic would be required to turn away the parent until the next day. They would be required to prepare detailed ultrasound reports - including audio of the fetal heartbeat - instead of spending their time saving the parent's life.

Under this bill, any pregnant person living up to 99 miles away from their nearest clinic would have to leave and return the next day after an ultrasound. Traveling 99 miles can be prohibitively difficult - many people do not have reliable access to private transport, and public transit could be extremely expensive and slow at those distances.

There is certainly benefit to informing the public about reproductive health - but that effort is best served by providing comprehensive reproductive education, which studies have proven to reduce unwanted pregnancies and lower abortion rates.<sup>1</sup>

This bill imposes an unnecessary and demeaning delay on abortion providers. I respectfully urge an unfavorable report.

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[https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/05/abortion-rates-are-constant-in-developing-countries-while-developed-ones-see-a-sharp-dr  
op.html](https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/05/abortion-rates-are-constant-in-developing-countries-while-developed-ones-see-a-sharp-drop.html)