

HB1317
FAVORABLE
Deborah Brocato
Harford County Respect Life Coordinators
3206 Gloucester Drive
Fallston, MD 21047

Dear Delegates,

I am a mother of 4 daughters, a nurse, a volunteer who has worked with many women facing a crisis pregnancy and a member of Harford County Respect Life Coordinators.

I applaud House Bill 1317 for aiming to ensure and protect a woman's Right to Know.

An abortion is an invasive medical procedure and women deserve the same informed consent that would be required for any other medical procedure. Women deserve a comprehensive explanation of their current physical condition, what will happen to their body during the procedure, risks and complications of the procedure and what to do if any of those risks and complications occur.

Working at a crisis pregnancy center in Baltimore County for 8 years, I assisted young women from Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Many of those young women came for support for a current pregnancy after experiencing an abortion for a prior pregnancy. For most, it was an in-and-out, same day procedure, no pre-operative blood work, no waiting period. Sometimes the women were given a sonogram to determine the gestational age of the baby but they were not shown the image or given an explanation of the image.

The young women would say, "I can't do that again" and, "I didn't know." They did not understand what was involved and were not prepared for the physical and mental aftermath. They felt rushed to "get it done" and assured they'd be better off. The abortion centers did not respect their Right to Know and these women were not given information to compare the risks of abortion vs. the risks of pregnancy or the facts about carrying a child to term and where to get help.

An abortion is a permanent action for a temporary condition. Women deserve the respect of getting all the facts before undergoing any medical or surgical procedure, including abortion.

Please think about the young women in your lives and what you would want for them. I urge you to respect and protect a woman's right to informed consent and sufficient time to consider her options and vote in favor of House Bill 1317.

Thank you.