

HB1360

Favorable

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus

3010 Evergreen Way, Ellicott City MD 21042

I ask the members of the committee to return a favorable report on House Bill 1360.

This bill provides comprehensive legislation regarding abortion-inducing drugs. These methods are not as safe as others will have you believe, and records of adverse events show this. These are also under-reported, especially in local jurisdictions, since Maryland lacks reporting requirements. Local emergency rooms are familiar with cases of complications, where often younger women are dumped on their doorstep with serious problems due to incomplete abortions or other adverse effects.

Changes in FDA protocols in December put women at further risk, especially when one considers the large number of cases which will require surgical completion, the risk of patients delaying follow-up treatment, and the increased risk at later gestational ages.

This bill includes appropriate record-keeping, proper physician treatment, and informed consent among its measures. These proposals provide more information to the state and to the patient for better decision-making, and a better standard of care for women.

As this method of abortion increases as a line of business, it needs to be better regulated with an eye toward the safety of the consumer. Making things more convenient by removing safety regulations is creating much greater risk for women. Studying this risk further and having mechanisms in place to create a safer environment for women is important. The abortion industry is in fact big business, and like other businesses, seeks what's in their self-interest. However, we need to protect the consumer.

I ask that you return a favorable report on House Bill 1360 for the reasons outlined above.