



**Favorable
HB 1317**

Health-Informed Consent (Woman's Right to Know Act)

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On behalf of our over 5,000 members across the state, we respectfully ask you to issue a favorable report to HB 1317. This is a common sense bill that the Maryland General Assembly must enact in order to give Maryland women an informed CHOICE about abortion.

The Woman's Right to Know Act is a pro-woman bill that trusts and empowers women to make difficult choices about their pregnancies and their lives. Informed consent legislation is not an attack on personal freedom, but a guarantee of it. It is constitutional. It is a reasoned and compassionate response to the needs of concerned pregnant women.

REAL CHOICE - It is intellectually dishonest to say you are "pro-choice" but then refuse to guarantee the women of Maryland the fundamental information they need to make an informed choice about their *growing child* and reproductive health. Women also need information and access to abortion alternatives and resources available to them if they choose life for their child.

The health risks of abortion undermine the false narrative promoted by the abortion industry, namely that the abortion debate requires *choosing sides* between mothers and their unborn children. The truth is that regulating abortion benefits *both* mothers *and* children – even their children in future pregnancies.

Evangeline Bartz of Americans United for Life put it best when she said: "*Women have been **betrayed** by an abortion industry that puts its profits above the health and safety of women.*"

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER - Psychologists have coined a term to describe common symptoms that they have found in many post-abortive women who have come to them for help. They call it "Post-Abortion Syndrome (PAS)". Common symptoms of PAS include guilt, anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, drug or alcohol abuse, eating disorders, a desire to avoid children or pregnant women, and flashbacks to the abortion itself.

Many women who undergo abortions face years of psychological pain and turmoil and too many women experience physical problems. Some women say that **no one told them** what to expect *emotionally*. They may find themselves experiencing unexpected grief or depression, with little understanding or support. Others say they just bury the emotions in order to carry on with their everyday lives, only to find those strong unresolved feelings re-emerge years later.

For these reasons, we ask you to put patients over profits and urge you to issue a favorable report for HB 1317. Thank you for your consideration.