

Written Testimony – HB1171

Jennifer Crispell – Opposed

HB 1171 does not practically make abortion more accessible in MD. The 1992 Freedom of Choice Act with the current broad interpretation of “health” of the mother makes abortion accessible with nearly no limitations in MD. However, there are serious consequences for all of us if this bill succeeds, including consequences that will be unpopular with most Marylanders. First, each of us will be paying for abortion through both our tax dollars and in hidden insurance costs. Since the right of abortion will not be able to be denied, Medicare will need to cover all abortions and health insurances will be forced to cover all abortion costs. Furthermore, health care workers would no longer be able to refuse abortion services as a matter of conscience. Even religiously funded hospitals would be forced to participate. Additionally, no limitations on abortions would be allowed – including abortions on babies who would be able to live if born, can feel pain, or on horrific dismemberment abortions. Popular laws such as “Laura and Reid’s Law” addressing fetal homicide and laws ensuring women’s safety may even be affected. Vote no to this unnecessary and harmful bill.