

HB1360 "Public Health – Abortion-Inducing Drugs"

Position - Favorable

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This letter is written in support of HB1360. I am the current director of the Catherine Foundation Pregnancy Resource Center located in Waldorf, MD. We offer pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, abortion pill reversal, abortion recovery program, maternity clothes, prenatal vitamins, baby supplies, referrals for community and social services and childbirth and parenting classes free of charge.

We provide counseling and comprehensive information to anyone we serve regarding the available choices and the ramifications involved. We want women to have real choices, not to be coerced into doing what they believe will supply an easy solution, only to discover that what they chose led to more devastation and pain than they could have imagined. We believe women should be provided with all the facts to help them make informed choices for themselves and their families. Our primary goals are to educate, inform and empower women.

There are medical risks involved with abortion, whether by medication or surgery, to include hemorrhage, infection, surgical complications, incomplete abortion, ongoing pregnancy (failed abortion), and death. Long term risks of medication abortion are similar to other types of abortion, and include preterm birth in future pregnancies, increased rates of adverse psychological outcomes such as suicide, depression, and substance abuse, and an increased rate of premenopausal breast cancer. Medication abortion carries with it a higher risk than surgical abortion in every category. These risks are downplayed by advocates of abortion, who often use terms like "safe and effective" to describe abortion procedures. We want women to know the truth.

Abortion pill reversal is a process whereby a person who has taken the first dose of abortion medication (which blocks progesterone) and then changes their mind, can take progesterone to reverse the process, which allows for a high chance of saving their baby. The abortion pill reversal protocol works. We have seen evidence of that fact. Yet, the advertisements of its availability have been suppressed. Most people are not aware that it even exists. Shouldn't we want people to make informed decisions? Pregnancy help centers are the ones left scrambling to try to get the word out about reversal, while the abortion pill is advertised and offered with no mention of the reversal possibility.

The reality is that abortion is dangerous for women, especially further along in the pregnancy. Regardless of the risks they face, women without resources who feel alone will ultimately succumb to taking the abortion pills, without someone available to manage their health situations. There is a huge potential for forced abortions due to the abortion medication being widely available with little oversight.

I urge you to support HB1360 to help women so they can be informed about abortion pill medication as well as abortion pill reversal, also requiring abortion reporting by providers so that accurate statistical information will be available, and to implement safeguards to promote good health and wellbeing for the people you represent. Protecting women and children should be one of your top priorities. Please consider this when determining whether or not to pass legislation.