



Secular Maryland

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HB 1230 - OPPOSE

Unborn Child Protection From Dismemberment Abortion Act of 2022

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

This bill is an attempt to outlaw the surgical abortion procedure known as Dilatation and Evacuation, or D&E. This type of abortion, which takes about 30 minutes to perform, has become the standard practice for terminating a pregnancy after 12 weeks. It involves dilating the cervix and using surgical instruments to remove the fetal and placental tissue. This is the method of second-trimester abortion that researchers from the World Health Organization endorse, and it's now preferred by the vast majority of U.S. patients having midtrimester terminations because it's a simple outpatient procedure with a low risk of complications. According to the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, D&E procedures result in the fewest complications.

Without D&E abortion, the options dwindle for performing a termination after the first trimester. Hospitals could do a labor induction – a physically and emotionally exhausting process that can take up to two full days – or a type of Cesarean section. Both have fallen out of favor in the United States because they're more expensive, more time-consuming, and can't be performed as an outpatient procedure. According to the CDC's most recent data, more than 70 percent of patients terminating in the second trimester opt for a procedure that could fall under the definition of D&E.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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