

HB1167

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 1167.

Abortion is legal in Maryland, and this bill doesn't try to change that. What it does do is provide women, especially minors, protection from being coerced into abortion. The state needs to have women's backs by protecting them from this coercion, which often comes from boyfriends or parents.

This bill provides solid protections from coercion, gives the victim explicit rights, and provides additional protection to minors. By having information in abortion facilities, it allows potential victims to get information on the help they need when they need it. By placing some responsibility on physicians, it provides further help.

This bill isn't about stopping abortion. It's about providing women protection from coercion. Among the women who have had an abortion, far too often we hear stories of coercion, often by spouses or boyfriends or parents. These women feel as if they had no choice, no help, no opportunity to make their own decision. These women deserved a system that would protect them from coercion. The current system fails them.

I ask that you return a favorable report on House Bill 1167 for the reasons outlined above.