## For HB0973

I am strongly in favor of HB0973 Ultrasound and Waiting Period

The decision to kill one's child is a weighty one. The mother needs to have the information to make the best decision. Often deceptive practices are used to urge/coerce a mother into having an abortion and later that often results in long-term emotional pain. Offering the mother information about her child in the form of an ultrasound image and some information of the child's developmental level, is totally appropriate. She is not forced to see or accept anything but has the opportunity to do so and thus make an informed decision. The mother also needs some time to decide and change her mind if she wants to without the presence of the staff from the abortion facility. The bill contains appropriate exceptions in special cases such as rape or travel from long distances. Thus, this is a bill that gives mothers the information she needs to make an **informed choice** and helps reduced the likelihood of painful regrets in the future. This is a bill that demonstrates true care and respect for women.

Barbara Cantilena 10326 Watkins Mill Drive Montgomery Village, MD 20886