

SB0859

Oppose

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus

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I ask the members of the committee to oppose Senate Bill 859 due to the extreme nature of the bill. In particular, the bill extends the reach of the most extreme portions of Maryland abortion law across state lines to encourage trafficking in abortions in a dangerous way. It is bad enough that Maryland law as currently written and enforced lacks protections for children, but it's even worse that this bill encourages predators and provides them an outlet in Maryland.

Maryland already has extreme abortion laws compared to other states, and one of the most dangerous is the lack of protections for parents and their children. State law allows children to obtain abortion with the consent of the provider without any requirement for parental notification, and without any records kept as to decisions made by providers to let even preteens obtain abortions. This allows the circumstance of an abuser, even a serial abuser to bring his victim in for abortions with no record of the abuse.

This bill would extend this scenario to other states, making Maryland a destination for abusers to obtain abortions for their victims, especially for abusers coming from states where minors abortions are tracked, where minors parents are informed, where authorities can use records to pursue evidence of a crime only indicated by the trafficking engaged in by the abuser. However, in Maryland, because such a scenario is hidden by abortion law, such evidence doesn't exist.

This scenario doesn't occur often, but has been found in other states. It won't be found in Maryland, and this bill extends that flaw in the Maryland law beyond the state borders.

While I disagree with this law for so many reasons, this flaw alone should cause concern among the members of this committee. For this reason, I ask that you consider returning an unfavorable report on this bill..