

My name is Pamela Palumbo, and I urge you to vote in favor of SB862 which seeks to stop the violation of women being forced or **coerced** into an abortion. While we all would like to think this isn't happening, that is absolutely not the case.

I speak from direct daily experience of caring for women for the past 42 years in 3 local women's clinics in Annapolis, Bowie and Severna Park as well as President of the MD Coalition representing 27 additional medical clinic's across our state.

Adult women and some as young as 13 who are pregnant and who we see often share that they are being pressured or have others pressuring or coerced to have an abortion. This occurs from a boyfriend or husband emotionally and/ or physically pressuring a woman to have an abortion and also parents. In addition the issue we know of is trafficked women, in addition to the trafficking, then being forced into unwanted abortions.

Maryland currently has NO laws to protect women, including no right to Informed consent, prior to an abortion procedure or taking medication abortion by pill.

In a study by University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy they state. "Planned Parenthood is at an advantageous position to detect sex trafficking and to provide life saving health services to victims. Although traffickers often do not allow their captors to seek medical help, **abortion can be an exception** to this general rule. "

Studies have identified health care providers as critical potential identifiers of trafficking victims and with Planned Parenthood the largest provider of abortions in Maryland, they are in the unique position to not only support a woman right to choose abortion, but also prevent women being forced into abortions by supporting this legislation

This will in no way impede women choosing abortions themselves, rather allow you as Legislators to save women from the emotional and physical trauma of forced and coerced abortions by simply ensuring they have the information that they can not be forced into an abortion.

I urge you to support HB1043 and preserve a woman's right to choose for herself and not be forced or coerced by anyone else. Thank you

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