

HB0884_RichardKaplowitz_UNF
3/15/2022

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0884 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

- **Public Health - Pregnancy - Coercion (Protecting Pregnant Women Against Coercive Abuse and Human Trafficking)**

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB#0884, Public Health - Pregnancy - Coercion (Protecting Pregnant Women Against Coercive Abuse and Human Trafficking)

This bill, while seeming reasonable, is another attempt to apply restrictions on a woman's reproductive freedom. It would deny to a minor who is emancipated funding for an abortion. It is an attempt to apply a theological definition of what constitutes an abortion and the conceptus - the result of a conception - instead of a medical judgement between a woman and her doctor on what is the best course of action for her pregnancy.

It assumes that abortions occur, not through a choice by the woman, as a result of real or imagined pressure to acquire that abortion for nefarious reasons. Existing laws cover mistreatment of women in an abusive relationship. This bill makes it seem that abortions are coerced, not chosen by a woman exercising her free will over her own reproduction.

Maryland must remove restrictions on abortion and treat it as a choice between a woman and her doctor with or without consultation of partners, clergy, or especially the government. This bill tries to define it as a choice she cannot or will not make without government interference.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0884.