

**Support HB 885 – Criminal Law: Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug – Prohibition (Women’s Freedom From Coercion Act)
Testimony by Brigitta Mullican, Rockville, MD 20851 – Legislative District 17**

I respectfully support HB 885. Please give it a favorable vote.

This legislation addresses a serious and often overlooked form of abuse: coercing or secretly causing a woman to ingest abortion-inducing drugs. No woman should ever be pressured, deceived, or forced into a medical decision—especially one as profound as ending a pregnancy. HB 885 provides an essential legal safeguard against such conduct and affirms that reproductive decisions must be voluntary and fully informed.

Maryland law should explicitly prohibit actions involving manipulation, threats, or deception in medical matters. HB 885 strengthens accountability for those who exploit or endanger women during vulnerable moments and reinforces the principle of bodily autonomy by ensuring that no one else can impose such a decision upon them.

The bill also serves as a deterrent to abusive behavior and sends a clear message that coercion in reproductive matters will not be tolerated. Protecting women from harm, intimidation, and non-consensual medical interventions is a legitimate and necessary function of criminal law.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give HB 885 a favorable report.