

**Favorable Statement HB714**

Health – Abortion Data – Submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Deborah Brocato, Retired Registered Nurse

**As a retired registered nurse, I am strongly in favor of HB714.**

In the interest of providing the best possible health care, records are kept for the purpose of tracking disease, accidents, trauma, and many other medical or physical conditions etc. along with the medical and surgical interventions or lack thereof. This is all done for safety as well as to advance medical care and technology.

It is normal practice to track efficacy and safety of medical practitioners, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmaceuticals, surgical procedures, etc. Maryland is one of 5 states that do not require abortion statistics reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As with the other areas of medicine, the patients' names and identifying information are not needed for statistical reporting.

Again, this valuable resource involving women's health is a grave omission. There needs to be transparency and full analysis on how medical and surgical abortions affect women's health. Women deserve full informed consent for any medical intervention and that must include abortion.

Excluding abortion statistics reporting means women are deprived of knowledge and do not receive equality of care.

Women and those involved in their health care should have access to abortion statistics which include the drugs and procedures used and the outcomes. Physicians and other health care professionals should have evidence based information so they can offer best care for their patients.

Please support good medical practice and women's equity in health care. **I strongly recommend a favorable report for HB714.**