

SUSAN K. McCOMAS  
Legislative District 34B  
Harford County

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*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 411  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3272  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3272  
Susan.McComas@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1401**  
**Public Health – Abortion – Informed Consent**

Pregnancy is an important time to understand your rights. During pregnancy one has the right to know what is going to happen to your body and how it affects you. Informed consent, as set forth in HB 1401, requires medical personnel to inform patients about the abortion before performing the procedure. At minimum the medical provider should tell the patient the abortion procedure steps and the known risks: psychological and physical outcomes, including possible medical complications.

HB1401 is meant to assure that the pregnancy decision making process is one based on accurate and uncoerced medical information and not misinformation. Abortion is an act that often results in regret and long-term depression. Obtaining an informed consent signed by the patient is a simple and direct method to ensure that the decision to have an abortion is based on knowledge of the procedure and the risks involved.

Please return a favorable report for HB1401.

Thank you, Madame Chair and Committee Members.

*Susan K. McComas*