

HB 885: Criminal Law - Causing Ingestion of an Abortion-Inducing Drug - Prohibition (Women's Freedom From Coercion Act): Please advocate **TO SUPPORT** this bill.

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 885**, the **Women's Freedom From Coercion Act**.

This bill addresses a clear and necessary purpose: **protecting women from coercion, abuse, and manipulation** in one of the most personal and consequential decisions of their lives. No woman should ever be forced, threatened, deceived, or pressured into ingesting an abortion-inducing drug against her will. **HB 885 affirms that consent must be real, voluntary, and free from coercion.**

HB 885 does **not** criminalize women. Instead, it appropriately targets those who **cause or compel** the ingestion of abortion-inducing drugs through force, intimidation, or deception. That distinction matters. The bill recognizes the reality of abusive relationships and power imbalances, and it provides a necessary legal safeguard for victims who may otherwise have no meaningful recourse.

The legislation also reflects basic principles of **due process and bodily autonomy**. Coercion is incompatible with freedom. **Protecting women** from being controlled or exploited by others **is not a partisan issue**—it is a matter of fundamental human dignity and personal liberty.

Maryland law should be clear that **reproductive decisions must not belong** to an abusive partner, trafficker, or third party exerting control. **HB 885 closes a dangerous gap in current law and sends a strong message that coercion will not be tolerated.**

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to **support HB 885** and stand up for women's freedom, safety, and consent.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals