



Testimony in Opposition to Forcing Medical Professionals to Perform Abortions **SB0447 Hospitals - Emergency Medical Conditions - Procedures**

Chair and Members of the committee, the Maryland Family Institute thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. The Maryland Family Institute is a non-profit committed to the protection of life and freedom of conscience in Maryland.

The present bill is specifically designed to subvert the rights of medical professionals to act in accordance with the ethical demands of their role. This is demonstrated by the fact that it specifically exempts itself from the protections of § 20–214 of the Maryland Health - General Code.¹ This all-important provision protects medical professionals from being forced into violating their commitment to healing and preserving life. These protections are indispensable to the preservation of the medical profession and the unique responsibilities its members bear.

By mandating abortion in certain cases, this bill undermines the ability of medical professionals to conscientiously practice their profession in accordance with their duty to refrain from harming those under their care. Protection of the rights of conscience is necessary, especially in light of the destructive nature of abortion. Medical professionals can provide requisite care to each of their patients, mother and child, while respecting the life and human dignity of both.²

The supposed necessity for deliberately killing preborn infants in the interests of the mother's health is a smokescreen to conceal the manufactured demand to force abortions on medical professionals and institutions. Delivering a child in order to avoid the death of the mother is distinct from abortion morally and medically, even when the child has to be delivered at a point in development when survival cannot be expected.³

It might be argued, superficially, that this resolves the concern about this bill's requirement to perform abortions when "medically necessary." The reality, however, is quite different. The breach which this bill makes in the law's protection of conscience would subject medical providers to coercion from all quarters, from employers to insurance providers. Robust legal protection is necessary for the proper functioning of the medical profession and should not be sacrificed to the demands of radical abortion proponents.

Maryland should respect and protect the rights of conscience of its medical professionals along with the right to life of the preborn patients. This bill, by its open embrace of abortion and subversion of conscience protections fails on both counts. Therefore, we urge the committee to oppose this bill.

¹ [MD Health - General Code § 20-214 \(2024\)](#).

² (Francis, Christine) June 4, 2024 [Written testimony of Christina Francis, MD, for the Senate HELP Committee hearing on "The Assault on Women's Freedoms: How Abortion Bans Have Created a Health Care Nightmare Across America"](#) <https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Christina-Francis-Senate-HELP-written-testimony.pdf>

³ Even Planned Parenthood recognizes such a distinction in discussing ectopic pregnancy. [What Is Ectopic Pregnancy? | Definition and Treatment](#) <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/pregnancy/ectopic-pregnancy> (accessed 3/24/2025).