

OPPOSE HB 1883: Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Chief Patron Del. Marshall (R – 13)

TRAP bills impose burdensome and unnecessary architectural, procedural, staffing, and equipment requirements on health care facilities where abortions are performed. This category of regulatory standards is different and much more costly to comply with than the standards applied to comparable medical practices. On the surface the bills may sound harmless, but the real goal of TRAP bills is to make providing abortion services so difficult that there will be fewer providers in Virginia and the procedure will become more expensive than most women can afford.

Why Oppose HB 1883?

- **The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the need for abortion is to put prevention – family planning services and access to birth control – first.**
- There is no basis for targeting abortions with new licensing requirements while ignoring other procedures, such as plastic surgery and oral surgery, regularly performed in medical offices.
- Abortions are safe procedures: first trimester abortions have a complication rate of less than 3% and a more serious complication rate of less than one-half of one percent.¹
- Medical offices that provide abortions already adhere to regulations of the Virginia Board of Medicine (a regulatory body), the Virginia Department of Health Professionals (a licensing body) and meet the same health and safety standards required by all medical offices:
 - zoning ordinances,
 - fire and safety codes,
 - OSHA bloodborne pathogens regulations,
 - CLIA requirements for lab testing & management, and
 - new detailed regulations for use of anesthesia adopted in 2003 by the Virginia Board of Medicine.

In Virginia

- TRAP bills have been introduced in various forms for many years in Virginia. In 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, TRAP legislation passed the House of Delegates, but was defeated in the Senate Education and Health Committee.
- Instead of trying to ban abortion outright, anti-abortion legislators are using an incremental approach to pass restrictions that make it more difficult to access abortion services.
- If passed by the Virginia General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor, TRAP would shut down 18 of the 20 abortion providers in Virginia.

For more information on this Fact Sheet or other Planned Parenthood issues go to www.ppav.org or contact ppav@ppfa.org.

¹ Tietze C, Henshaw SK. *Induced abortion: A worldwide review*, 1986. Third edition. New York: Guttmacher Institute, 1996.