

Abortion oversight bill does more harm than good

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Letters to the Editor

By

As clergy and a member of Pennsylvania Clergy for Choice, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 574.

If abortion providers were as lax and unregulated as the Pennsylvania Family Institute erroneously asserts, then Dr. Eli Avila, the Department of Health's secretary, would not have affirmed that inspections can be done without additional legislation. In fact, he said that any thoughts to the contrary were "rumors."

The obvious truth is that this bill establishes unnecessary and expensive regulations that its supporters are well aware will most likely force clinics to close or increase costs. But fewer or more costly providers will not decrease the need for safe, legal medical care.

Rather than increasing safety, this bill will most certainly drive women, especially poor women, to seek illegal and unsafe procedures.

For example, a former patient of now-discredited Dr. Kermit Gosnell testified at a recent state Senate committee hearing that because she could not afford Planned Parenthood, she turned to Gosnell. This bill has the potential to create a major health crisis. To suggest this initiative will protect women's lives is unconscionable when it will, in fact, decrease access to safe and affordable abortion services.

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