May 28, 1985

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin Speaker of the House of Delegates State House Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 221.

This bill provides for the licensing and regulation of freestanding birthing centers by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Senate Bill 344, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 28, 1985, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 221.

Sincerely, Harry Hughes Governor

House Bill No. 221

AN ACT concerning

Health - Freestanding Birthing Centers

FOR the purpose of providing for the licensing and regulation of freestanding birthing centers by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; defining certain terms; authorizing the Secretary to adopt certain rules and regulations pertaining to the licensing and regulation of freestanding birthing centers; providing for the issuance, scope, term, renewal, suspension, and revocation of licenses to operate a freestanding birthing center; imposing certain operational requirements; providing for certain hearings; imposing certain criminal penalties for violations of this Act or any rule or regulation adopted under this Act; authorizing certain freestanding birthing centers to operate without a license until a certain date; and generally relating to the licensing and regulation of freestanding birthing centers.

BY adding to