



Opposition Statement SB278
School-Based Health Centers - Telehealth
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We Strongly Oppose SB278

On behalf of our 200,000 followers, we respectfully yet strongly object to SB278. Application of this bill to expand the abortion industry's access to school children in Maryland particularly through remote prescription of chemical abortion pills in school-based health centers poses a dangerous risk to the well-being of school children and is not a part of the academic mission of our public school system.

FDA REM restrictions on the remote prescription and sale of abortion pills are a necessary regulation to protect the health and safety of women and girls from the improper use of chemical abortion pills.

Parents entrust our public school systems to provide academic instruction only. Parents send their daughters to school to receive an education, not to receive abortions. We know that abortion industry is working to expand abortion services into high schools across the nation. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>.

We strongly urge the bill sponsor to amend the language of this bill to exclude its application to abortion, chemical abortion pills and abortion related services. Otherwise we strongly urge you to issue an unfavorable report on this bill.

We support programs to create an environment that supports students who parent their children, but we cannot support any policy or programs that give the abortion industry access to minor school-aged children. Please keep in mind that there are other service providers who provide support to teen mothers but do not refer to or sell abortions.

Abortion is not health care

Abortion is not health care. It is a brutal procedure that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Abortion creates a culture of violence and abuse. Abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than all other causes combined. Women have better options for comprehensive health care. There are 14 federally qualifying health care centers for every Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

No public funding for abortions

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions performed in Maryland. State funding for abortion on demand with taxpayer funds is in direct conflict with the will of the people. A 2019 Marist poll showed that 54% of Americans, both "pro-life" and "pro-choice" oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion. Never has more than 40% of the American public supported taxpayer funding of abortion regardless of the context or way in which the question is asked.

Love them both

This bill seeks to This stands in conflict with the fact that 83% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children.

Funding restrictions are constitutional

The Supreme Court has held that the alleged constitutional “right” to an abortion “implies no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.” When a challenge to the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment reached the Supreme Court in 1980 in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, the Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that “no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life” -- and affirmed that *Roe v. Wade* had created a limitation on government, not a government entitlement.