



Informational Statement SB842
Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth
In Contact With the Justice System

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On behalf of our chapters and members across the state of Maryland, we applaud any efforts of the state to support pregnant youth in healthy birth outcomes. However, this bill as written would likely entrust those who profit from the sale of abortions with the care and maternal outcomes of pregnant youth within the juvenile justice system. The state continues to subsidize the abortion industry without regard to the fact that greater public investment in abortion providers has increased abortion and decreased prenatal care and adoption. To save the good purposes of this bill, we urge you to exclude abortion-invested parties from participating in policy development regarding pregnant youth within the system and from eligibility for any public funding and to instead prioritize the state's interest in the life of preborn children and programs that protect the lives of both mothers and preborn children.

PRIORITIZE PRENATAL CARE – 58% of people in a January 2021 Marist poll said they oppose public funding for abortion. 80% said they prefer policies that support the lives of both mothers and children. Women have many more options for legitimate prenatal care and well woman care. There are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland. The state should prioritize funding for prenatal programs that have proven successful birth outcomes, including the many pro-life medical pregnancy centers across the state.

MORE FUNDING = LESS CARE Planned Parenthood's business model is based on abortion, not prenatal care. **Planned Parenthood commits 41 abortions for every one prenatal care service and 133 abortions for every adoption referral. Planned Parenthood provides no pediatric care.** In their [Annual Report](#) released in January 2021, Planned Parenthood reports that the number of abortions they committed increased nearly 3% in 2019-2020 from the previous year for a record high total of 354,871 abortions. That's over 972 babies killed daily- or one every 89 seconds. In stark contrast, they report that their prenatal care and adoption referrals both dropped double digits from the previous year. Despite its claims that its primary focus is to provide health care for women, Planned Parenthood's business model is built on profiting from abortions and the exploitation of women and young girls, especially among minority communities and vulnerable populations, including incarcerated youth. Planned Parenthood offers "prenatal" services as a means to sell abortion to vulnerable women and girls facing unplanned pregnancies ([LEARN MORE](#)).

PREGNANCY IS NOT A DISEASE – Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that systemically targets the poor and vulnerable and ends the lives of preborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Abortion is never medically necessary and exposes women to both physical and psychological complications. Abortion has historically targeted People of Color for population control. The fact that 85% of OB/GYNs refuse to commit abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women deserve better than abortion.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to amend SB842 to protect pregnant youth within the juvenile justice system from being preyed upon by the abortion industry by excluding abortion-invested parties from participation in policy or programs for pregnant women and girls or issue an unfavorable report. Thank you.