



Opposition Statement HB356

Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students

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On behalf of our members across the state, we oppose House Bill 356, *Pregnant and Parenting Students Policies* in Maryland Universities and Colleges. We applaud any effort to help create an educational environment that supports pregnant students in their decisions to parent their children or utilize adoption services. **However this bill would create a public framework and potential public funding for the abortion industry, empowering them to prey on college students without the knowledge or consent of parents.**

By requiring schools and colleges to adopt a formal policy to incorporate Title IX, you will be imposing abortion mandates on college campuses. Like the codification of *Roe v. Wade* in the states, local adoption of Federal Title IX is just another insidious method of expanding abortion access and public funding for the abortion industry.

Title IX is About Abortion

This bill is part of ongoing incremental legislation to codify abortion policies related to pregnant students already established by Federal Title IX amendments. Title IX was marketed as protection for girls' sports programs, but the truth is that Title IX was drafted in 1972 to complement pro-abortion efforts to legalize abortion along with *Roe v.*

Wade and the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Heritage Foundation published the following article in July 2022, discussing how Title IX is being used to undermine state abortion prohibitions. <https://www.heritage.org/life/commentary/title-ix-could-empower-campus-health-clinics-defy-states-pro-life-laws>

Title IX regulations have required equal accommodation for abortion since 1975. The Obama administration further weaponized Title IX to expand the framework for abortion promotion in federal institutions. The Biden administration's guidance on Title IX, issued the day before *Roe's* reversal, increases protections for abortion on campus, including distribution of chemical abortion pills and referral to abortion providers.

This bill would require colleges to develop and implement the abortion-biased federal and state framework for pregnant students, coordinating publicly funded contracts for Planned Parenthood and other abortion activists while denying access to lifesaving alternatives to abortion. Colleges would be required to commit public resources towards expanding abortion to students, including providing contracts to abortion advocates and providers for curriculum, professional development training, campus health clinic operations, the remote prescription and dispensing of dangerous chemical abortion pills, and transportation to offsite reproductive healthcare providers including abortion providers.

I recommend the following *New York Times* article that explains the true intentions of federal Title IX:

“While the Equal Rights Amendment had opponents like Phyllis Schlafly, who led a grass-roots conservative campaign against its ratification, and *Roe v. Wade* had social conservatives and religious leaders prepared to protest, immediate opposition to Title IX was minimal, according to Dr. Deondra Rose, an associate professor of public policy at Duke University who focuses on landmark social policies in the United States.

“Everyone can relate to sports, whether it’s your favorite team or college athletic experience — sports are a common denominator that brings us together,” said Dr. Courtney Flowers, a sports management professor at Texas Southern University and a co-author of [a new analysis of Title IX](#) by the Women’s Sports Foundation. “Everyone knows the word but ties it to athletics.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/23/sports/title-ix-anniversary.html#:~:text=Title%20IX%20was%20signed%20by,States%2C%20was%20announced%20on%20Jan.>

The recent campaign to create bipartisan support to "save women's sports", is a brilliant strategy of the far Left widely promoted by the mainstream media, to implement their abortion mandates and other propaganda. They have succeeded in getting conservative individuals and organizations to demand the local implementation of Title IX as a method to combat transgender politics - when it has been corrupted to achieve the exact opposite ends.

Parental Notice and Consent Provides Better Outcomes for Youth

Maryland law recognizes the natural and legal right of parents to provide consent to their child’s medical care. Insurance providers allow parents to provide insurance companies for their children until the age of 26- which is beyond the time that most graduate from college. But by mandating a framework on campuses to benefit the abortion industry, who already are entrenched on most college campuses, you are undermining the role of parents in their children’s healthcare decisions. The state has aggravated the situation by failing to require sex education curriculum to be medically accurate or age appropriate. The lack of parental notification puts young people at greater risk of undiagnosed and untreated abortion complications and enables abortion providers to evade liability for failure to report child abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking.

No Public Subsidies to Billion Dollar Abortion Industry

A 2023 Marist poll showed that 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children, and that 60% oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize abortion indoctrination, promotion and abortion violence. *Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund legitimate health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children.*

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you issue an unfavorable report and protect Maryland’s youth from abuse and exploitation.

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With its ruling in Dobbs overturning Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court has returned abortion to the people and their elected leaders. For the first time in 49 years, states can craft pro-life laws that truly protect unborn human life. Another law, Title IX, has just marked its 50th anniversary- and it's not going anywhere. Title IX ensures that schools receiving federal funds do not bar women from school, sports or related work.

Title IX became law in 1972, a year before the court's ruling in Roe v. Wade, and is far less controversial than the abortion ruling. So it's no surprise that in the Dobbs case, a group of over 500 female athletes submitted an amicus brief that tied Roe to Title IX. They claimed that, without access to abortion, they could not have succeeded in their sports.

Recently, on Title IX's 50th birthday, the Department of Education released its proposed revisions to the regulations' meaning. DOE includes "pregnancy or related conditions" under "discrimination based on sex." What related conditions? Childbirth, lactation and ... termination of pregnancy.

So, one day before the Dobbs decision returned abortion law to the states, DOE released Title IX language that would enshrine at least some abortions in federal regulation.

Because Title IX is neutral on abortion, it cannot "require or prohibit" abortion. Under Roe, a woman having an abortion would not be penalized by her school, sport, or job. By neither "requiring nor prohibiting" abortion access in schools, though, Title IX's language creates a "gray zone." If a court deems failure to provide access to abortion as discriminatory, then colleges receiving federal funding could do so for students-despite a pro-life law in that state.

In Alabama, for example, state law now protects the pre-born child from conception. But the University of Alabama-which receives federal funds-could still give students chemical abortion pills through its campus health clinic.

Title IX funding, then, could enable colleges to be "abortion sanctuaries" for students and faculty. This could take the form of campus health clinics distributing chemical abortion pills or abortion referrals.

In short, the argument goes, Title IX could ensure surgical abortion access and dispense chemical abortion pills to students. Like "condom and candy" handouts, this shift would enable colleges to pass out abortion poison pills to young students.

This federal workaround will surely lead to legal fights between federal regulators and state governments. Will the gimmick hold up in court? It's hard to say. But the left, and President Biden, seek-by hook or by crook-to overrule state laws to provide abortion access with federal funds.

All of this is based on the myth that women need abortion to be equal with men. But men and women, though equal in value, are different. Sane laws should reflect that fact. And no sane law includes abortion on demand.

Of course, when abortion is an option for unexpected pregnancies, it becomes the "cheap and easy" method. But how many innovations have we foregone because abortion was the easy way out?

>>> [After Supreme Court's Abortion Decision Conservatives Face a New and Even Greater Challenge](#)

Pro-life laws will help us find out since they will change the incentives on many college campuses. Incentives matter. Schools, for their part, could offer more resources for pregnant students. And post-Roe, pro-life groups can help colleges provide women the help they need in pregnancy and parenting.

Like the Hyde Amendment, we need to ensure that their college funds go towards supporting students, not killing babies. Along these lines, members of Congress introduced the Protecting Life on College Campus Act (2021). The bill would block federal funds from going to colleges whose health clinics provided abortion access. That money could go, instead, to supporting mothers and families. Rather than asking pregnant women to bear the burden of extra medical bills and a higher cost of living, anti-discrimination measures could ensure that Title IX helps them.

In the meantime, conservatives should call out the left's vile efforts to smuggle abortion into Title IX. This will not be the only approach they try. Expect such tricks so long as the pro-abortion party occupies the White House and both chambers of Congress.

This piece originally appeared in The Washington Times