



Opposition Statement HB454

Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

We oppose HB454

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to HB454. Maryland Right to Life opposes non-citizens receiving licenses, certificates and registrations for the purpose of providing abortions and abortion services. The Abortion Care Access Act has already lowered the standard of care for women and girls by allowing non-physicians to provide abortion services. Women and girls deserve the expectation of the highest standard of care possible and this bill fails to protect the health and well-being of women and girls. Medical and surgical abortions carry risks of physical injury up to and including death. Poor record-keeping and lack of uniformity among foreign nations makes it impossible to verify or to quantify the level of professional standard of care. The bill does not provide details with regard to licensing of individuals performing medical procedures. Will the state force insurance companies to provide medical malpractice insurance for those individuals? How will women and girls be able to seek recovery after injury from abortion services provided by these individuals? Women and girls in the state of Maryland deserve the highest standard of professional medical care available and this bill does the opposite.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion. Maryland taxpayers are forced to subsidize the abortion industry through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs involved in reproductive health policy include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortion training. The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.



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Funding restrictions are constitutional. The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. 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 held that there is "*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.*"

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose **HB454**.