



Opposition Statement SB1059

Maternal Health – Assessments, Referrals, and Reporting
(Maryland Maternal Health Act of 2024)
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Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our over 200,000 followers across the state, Maryland Right to Life respectfully objects to SB1059. We oppose requirements that would include referring the pregnant patients to facilities that promote and provide abortions. We oppose any appropriations from this bill being used to fund the abortion industry. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment excluding abortion purposes from this bill.

The bill requires a report that includes the number and type of referrals made to the pregnant woman and providing information describing risks, signs and preventive measures and treatment for various conditions. In Maryland, abortion is considered and used as a treatment for many treatable conditions. The bill allows that if the Department of Health determines a facility has not complied with the requirements of the report, the Department of Health may choose not to reimburse those facilities. These facilities should not be penalized for not referring to entities that promote and provide abortions.

Abortion is not healthcare. Pregnancy is not a disease. While many women experience complications during pregnancy, these conditions are treatable, pregnant women should not feel pressured to abort her child simply because her pregnancy requires more care. Maryland Right to Life will continue to object to state-sponsored abortion. The fact that 85% of OB/Gyn's in a representative national survey do not perform abortions reveals that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for comprehensive healthcare. **Reporting and funds from this bill should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, and parenting classes.**

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 held that government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions and that there is "no limitation on the authority of the State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds." The 2023 Marist poll once again showed that 60% of Americans, both pro-life and pro-abortion, oppose tax-payer funded abortion.

Without an amendment excluding abortion purposes from this bill, Maryland Right to Life requests an unfavorable report on SB1059.