



### **Opposition Statement SB3**

Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -  
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting  
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Maryland Right to Life

**Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment for SB3** so that the loosening of licensing requirements is not used to help further supply the abortion industry with their workforce. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed a level of health and safety protection for pregnant women and girls of Maryland when the law removed the physician requirement for providing abortions. Maryland Right to Life opposes this further interference in the independent operations of health occupations boards and their authority over the licensing and regulation of their respective healthcare professionals. Independent boards for each healthcare occupation are essential to ensure that standards of medical care are maintained for the safety and wellbeing of Marylanders using the healthcare system. Medical standards must not be compromised for the convenience of those working in the healthcare system, even those connected to military service. Standards vary from state to state and every person practicing in Maryland should be held to the same practice and licensing standards.

**The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022** removed one of the few health and safety protections for pregnant women and girls in the Maryland Code which was the legal requirement that only licensed physicians provide abortions. The Act puts profits over patients and allows non-medical personnel to be licensed or certified by the state to provide surgical and chemical abortions up to birth. This law removes abortion from the spectrum of healthcare. Bill after bill in the Assembly shows a continued push to decrease the standards for licensing and certification of healthcare occupations making it easier to provide workers in the abortion industry. An individual with less medical education and medical training can be paid lower than more highly educated and trained healthcare practitioners such as doctors thus increasing the profit margin. This strategy puts the women and girls of Maryland at risk for substandard medical care which puts them at risk for injury up to and including death.

**The loosening of licensing requirements** is further erosion of the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. The state needs to promote best medical practice and allow the various health occupations boards to independently manage their infrastructure operations and examine the competency of their practitioners.

Maryland Right to Life urges the addition of an amendment to exclude this bill being used for abortion purposes. Without this amendment, we ask that you give an unfavorable report to **SB3**.