



## **OPPOSITION STATEMENT**

SB975/HB1091

Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act

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Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we strongly object to this bill that would appropriate public grant funds to further subsidize the multi-billion dollar abortion industry and divert public funds from legitimate reproductive healthcare services. Despite the dire women's health statistics in Maryland, the State-sponsored abortion monopoly deprives women equal access to legitimate reproductive healthcare. Maryland women deserve better than a system prioritizing death and destruction over their reproductive health.

We strongly oppose the use of public funds to finance abortion facility infrastructure. Bill proponents are attempting to distort reality and manufacture a crisis in order to extort taxpayer funding to further enrich the multi-billion dollar abortion industry. The bill is based on a false premise and defamatory claims that abortion facilities in Maryland are facing increased threats of violence from anti-abortion "terrorists" and therefore require millions in taxpayer subsidies to enhance facility security.

The truth is that pro-abortion assailants have committed escalating acts of violence and vandalism against pro-life citizens and pregnancy resource centers in Maryland since the Supreme Court's 2022 reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Pro-life citizens have the right to Equal Protection under the law and it is the duty of the state to enforce the law without political bias.

The state of Maryland has no legal obligation to fund abortions or to subsidize the abortion industry. If the state elects to do so, it must provide equal protection under the law for pro-life citizens and provide equal accommodation for pregnant women who choose to utilize the services of pregnancy resource centers, churches and community-based pro-life organizations.

## **70% of Violence Committed by Abortion Rights Activists**

Abortion is not health care- but is the violent destruction of human life. Abortion culture promotes the inhumane and uncivilized belief that people may resort to violence to solve their problems. In order to distract taxpayers from the brutality of their business, the abortion industry maligns and defames peaceful pro-life citizens and organizations who are exercising their First Amendment rights and in many cases, exercising their religion, which calls them to come to the aid of those who are being sent to their death.

In Maryland, at least 6 (six) physical assaults against pro-life citizens in Maryland have been reported to police since 2022 as well as three incidents of vandalism against pregnancy resource centers. (See attachment).

In 2022, **Federal Bureau of Investigation Director, Christopher Wray**, [testified](#) before Congress that roughly 70% of the Bureau's abortion-related violence or threat cases since the illegal leak of the Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, **has been committed by pro-abortion assailants against pro-life victims.**

(<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2878435/seventy-percent-of-fbis-abortion-related-violence-cases-have-anti-abortion-victims-since-dobbs-wray/>)

At least 100 pregnancy resource centers and pro-life groups nationwide have been attacked and vandalized since a draft Supreme Court opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* was leaked in early May 2022. Pro-abortion domestic terrorists have claimed responsibility, and delivered on their promise of a "[summer of rage](#)".

### **The State is Failing to Provide Equal Protection**

These documented attacks against pro-life citizens in Maryland should be properly classified as hate crimes and added to the Maryland State Police *Hate Bias Report*, as the victims were peacefully practicing the tenets of their Christian faith. But to date, the state has failed to charge or prosecute any pro-abortion assailants, even known assailants identified by photographic evidence. A longstanding principle of American jurisprudence, which has biblical roots is the phrase popularized by William E. Gladstone "*justice delayed is justice denied*" and in deed justice has been denied to these pro-life citizens.

Similarly, in December 2023, members of Congress have challenged Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke over her department's allegedly discriminatory practices during a House Judiciary Committee hearing. Congressman Chip Roy, R-TX, a former U.S. attorney, questioned Clarke's and the rest of the Biden administration's interpretation of the controversial **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act**. He noted that this law "**protects abortion clinics, pregnancy resource centers, and houses of worship alike.**" "However," he continued, "the division of prosecution under the FACE Act shows a significant bias toward prosecuting FACE Act violations involving abortion clinics." In making this point, Roy specifically referenced the case of pro-life activist [Mark Houch](#), who successfully sued the Biden Department of Justice. (<https://catholicvote.org/house-judiciary-committee-confronts-biden-appointee-over-face-act/>)

Congressman Roy stated that the leak of the Supreme Court's draft *Dobbs* decision "gave rise to widespread demonstrations and attacks on pro-life facilities." He also stated "In fact following the leak, more than a hundred pro-life facilities were vandalized or damaged including by arson," he said. "Two hundred eighteen Catholic churches have been attacked" since the *Dobbs* leak, Roy added, citing CatholicVote's [violence tracker](#).

### **Maryland is State Sponsor of Corporate Abortion**

Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland 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 that utilize public funding for abortion, abortion providers or promotion and other abortion-related activities 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 Assembly for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

**No Public Funding** - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

**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.”*

### **State is Failing Pregnant Women**

Paradoxically, the state ranks among the worst in the nation for infant mortality, preterm birth rates, and has seen a rise in severe maternal morbidity since 2019. Women in underserved communities lack access to high-risk obstetric care, face challenges in obtaining mental and behavioral health services, experience increased rates of substance abuse and overdose, and are deprived of essential perinatal education for healthy pregnancies.

The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.
- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex

trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

**Abortion is not Health Care** – Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion is NOT health care and is never medically necessary. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women.

The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which involves the purposeful termination of fetal human life. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that both lives can be saved.

Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion providers who are mandatory reporters under the law, refuse to report to law enforcement suspected cases of rape or abuse.

**Abortion is Black Genocide** - Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. It is believed that nearly half of all pregnancies of Black women end in abortion. As a result, Black Americans are no longer the leading minority population, dropping second to the Hispanic population. People of color have long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion by eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in Minority communities. As a result abortion has become the leading killer of Black lives. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide. For more information please see [www.BlackGenocide.org](http://www.BlackGenocide.org).

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge your unfavorable report on this bill and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.**

**REPORTED ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM IN MARYLAND SINCE 2022**

MAY 1, 2022

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Alpha Pregnancy Center, a faith-based pregnancy resource center in Reisterstown, Maryland was vandalized including being spray painted with the words "If Abortions aren't safe, then neither are you". Pro-abortion domestic terrorism group Jane's Revenge took credit for the vandalism but no prosecutions have been initiated.

MAY 4, 2022

FREDERICK COUNTY

Care-Net of Frederick, a faith-based pregnancy resource center was vandalized and spray painted with the words "Go to Planned Parenthood instead." The center was vandalized twice previously.

MAY 8, 2022

FREDERICK COUNTY

BirthRight of Frederick Pregnancy Resource Center was vandalized with graffiti.

JUNE 2, 2022

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Nicholas John Roske made an attempt against the life of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Roske reportedly was upset about the leaked Dobbs decision. He was armed with a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray and duct tape.

MAY 2023

BALTIMORE CITY

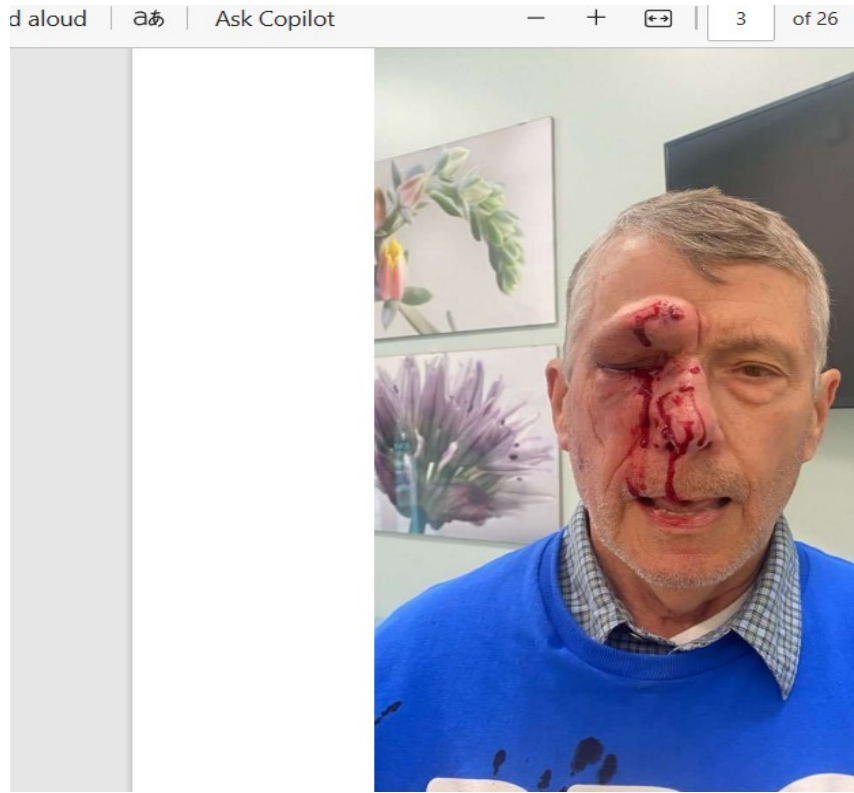
Two senior pro-life citizens were brutally beaten while praying and practicing sidewalk advocacy outside of the Planned Parenthood on N. Howard Street. Mark Crosby was beaten and kicked in the face within an inch of his life and suffered permanent injury. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.

JULY 8, 2023

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

83 year old pro-lifer citizen, Olga Fairfax, was brutally attacked while praying outside an abortion facility in Silver Spring, Maryland. A young woman repeatedly punched Olga and sprayed her skin and clothes with spray paint. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.







on the sidewalk,' predicted pro-life Olga Fairfax. 'It's a war: God aga



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Known assailant in Frederick County assault. License plate blurred but reported to police.