



**Opposition Statement HB1289**

State Board of Social Work Examiners – Practice Social Work -  
Definition and Scope of Authority  
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Maryland Right to Life

**On behalf of our over 200,000 followers, Maryland Right to Life opposes this legislation as written and respectfully requests an amendment to prohibit abortion purposes from this bill. Without the amendment, we request an unfavorable report for HB1289.**

Maryland Right to Life opposes HB1289 in that the state will be expanding the scope of practice for the practice of social work to include **biological factors**, calling the new aspect biopsychosocial treatment. Page 2 defines biopsychosocial to include **biological**, psychological and social factors. All of these factors can include the fact that a woman or girl is pregnant and the factors surrounding her pregnancy which might be her economic status as well as her worries or “anxiety” concerning the pregnancy. Mental health and socioeconomic status are reasons used to coerce women and girls into abortion. Social workers are also employed in the school systems so their interventions will affect minor children. Planned Parenthood and other abortion facilities now prescribe gender transition drugs. We oppose parents being excluded from the decision making of their minor children for their education and reproductive healthcare.

**Maryland is failing to protect children.** The state shields abortionists by allowing them to commit abortions unfettered and without reporting requirements to the state or the Centers for Disease Control. While abortion providers are supposed to be subject to the law as mandatory reports of suspected child abuse, we are aware of no such report. Inspections of abortion clinics and practices are complaint driven only.

**Maintain and/or adopt reasonable health and safety standards.** The state of Maryland needs to promote best medical practice in all areas of healthcare delivery including counseling. The abortion industry is only concerned with abortion remaining legal and lucrative. While we oppose abortion, Marylanders should receive the best counseling advice for their families from the most qualified professionals without a narrow focus of directing clients to the abortion industry.

For these reasons, Maryland Right to Life respectfully asks for an amendment to exclude this bill being used for abortion purposes. **Without an amendment, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB1289.**