



### **Opposition Statement HB1317**

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Use of Reimbursement Funds by Schools  
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Maryland Right to Life

#### **We Oppose HB1317**

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to HB1317. This bill provides additional funding for abortion services through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program by using funds intended for other ordinary wellness services provided in the schools. See the attached Maryland School Based Health Center Standards where this funding would be directed. The use of funds from this program to provide reimbursement of abortion services would also allow parental rights to be bypassed. The abortion industry is already well-funded by the taxpayers of Maryland. It is not necessary to provide another pass-through for abortion funding. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude funding for abortion and abortion services from this bill.

**The Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MHCP) are the two primary programs used for publicly funded reimbursements to abortion providers in Maryland.** The Maryland Department of Legislative Services, in their *Analysis of the FY 2022 Maryland Executive Budget*, shows that Maryland taxpayers are forced to fund elective abortions. For the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, over \$6 million was spent each year for almost 10,000 abortions each year. In that same report, we see that for Fiscal 2020, less than 10 of the almost 10,000 abortions were due to rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

**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.

**Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.** Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland. Polls consistently show that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

**Funding restrictions are constitutional.** The Supreme Court of the United States has 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.*”

Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment excluding abortion purposes from this bill. Without it, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB1317.



HB1317  
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