



UNFAVORABLE STATEMENT

SB940/HB1045 Health Insurance and Family Planning Services – Consumer Protections-Updates
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On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we object to the appropriation and use of any public funds for the purposes of abortion violence, including the eligibility of any abortion business or organization for Maryland Family Planning Program funds.

This bill would extend and increase Maryland Family Planning Program funding coverage exclusively for abortion providers. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to pick up the tab for abortion businesses that refuse to separate their abortion practices from their family planning services, and therefore render themselves ineligible for federal Family Planning funding. Any state family planning funds given to these businesses, will ultimately subsidize abortion practices.

Federal Title X Prohibits Funding For Abortion

Congress enacted the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-572), which added Title X, "Population Research and Voluntary Family Planning Programs" to the Public Health Service Act. Section 1001 of the Act (as amended) authorizes grants "to assist in the establishment and operation of voluntary family planning projects which shall provide a broad range of acceptable and effective medically approved methods (including natural family planning methods) and services (including infertility services and services for adolescents)."

Under Section 1008 1 [300a-6] of the Title X regulations, none of the funds appropriated under Title X shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.

However, the abortion industry's political power has enabled Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses to increase their revenue through Title X grants. This is despite Planned Parenthood's long, evidenced history of harming women and girls at their centers as well as several scandals concerning minors, breaking state and federal laws, the trafficking of fetal tissue from aborted babies, and more.

No Public Bail Out for Planned Parenthood

In 2019 (HB1272) the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Planned Parenthood Bail-Out" bill to force Maryland taxpayers to provide an additional \$3.2 million in escalating annual compensation to abortion providers that refused to comply with federal Title X funding requirements. These providers failed to qualify for federal funding when they refused to physically separate their abortion operations from their family planning services. To make a political statement, the Maryland General Assembly refused almost all Family Planning Program dollars and transferred the burden to state taxpayers.



When the Protect Life Rule went into effect in 2019 to restore the original purpose of Title X funds, abortion centers and entities that refer for abortions, including Planned Parenthood, chose to forgo Title X funding rather than separate Title X projects from their abortion businesses. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 411 Planned Parenthood sites and 869 other Title X sites left the program between June 2019 and August 2021, mostly in states with laws that promote abortion, like Maryland. However, during that same time, 2,730 Title X sites chose patient care over abortion promotion and remained in the Title X network. Further, new grantees that were willing to comply with the mission of Title X were able to join. (Source: <https://lozierinstitute.org/the-protect-life-rule-defunding-abortion-in-title-x/>).

The current bill seeks to extend state taxpayer funds for abortion providers through the Maryland Family Planning Program. In doing so, the State would redirect funds away from legitimate providers of Family Planning services to abortion providers who are financially motivated in unplanned pregnancy and abortion sales.

Abortion is Not Family Planning

Killing family members is not a legitimate method of family planning- and this is why Title X regulations have required abortion practices to be separate from federally funded Title X facilities. The multi-billion dollar abortion industry profits from the sale of abortions and has demonstrated that they cannot be trusted with the reproductive health and safety of women and girls in Maryland.

It is not surprising that Planned Parenthood chooses abortion over healthcare. Planned Parenthood sites performed 392,715 abortions in 2021-22, “an increase of over 18,000 (5%) from the previous year, and an increase of 20% over the past 10 reports.” Yet, since 2010, Planned Parenthood’s total services are down 17%, and contraceptive services are down 39% even with public funding. An examination of Planned Parenthood’s annual reports for 1995 to 2014—years when HHS did not require Title X projects to be physically and financially separate from abortion—reveals how integral abortion is to Planned Parenthood.

While abortions performed at non-Planned Parenthood centers decreased by more than 50% during those years, Planned Parenthood abortions increased 142%, growing Planned Parenthood’s market share of abortions from 10% in 1995 to 35% in 2014. Clearly, an organization that produces such a “long-term and accelerating inflationary effect on the incidence and prevalence of abortion in the US” should not receive federal tax dollars that are authorized to help patients to achieve pregnancy only when they desire it, not to end existing pregnancies. (Source: <https://lozierinstitute.org/the-protect-life-rule-defunding-abortion-in-title-x/>).

No Public Funding

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. Regardless of how one feels about the legality of abortion, there is longstanding bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 57% percent of those surveyed in a January 2025 Marist poll say they oppose



taxpayer funding of abortion. 67% of Americans in that same poll support legal limits on abortion, particularly after the first trimester.

Invest in Life - 82% 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.*"

Disparate Impact Statement - 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.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against any and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. Maryland Family Planning Program funds should be used for those providers who provide legitimate reproductive health services, not those who simply kill unwanted children.

We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all human beings, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.