



### **UNFAVORABLE – Seeking Amendment**

HB297/SB05 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange - State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program - Sunset Repeal

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On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we seek amendment on this bill, as we did on the original authorizing legislation, to prohibit the Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Program from funding abortion violence.

Maryland Right to Life supports policy that recognizes the equal value of each human being regardless of the circumstances of their conception and reminds policymakers that abortion is not a medical treatment and is never medically necessary – and therefore, abortionists do not deserve public funding or insurance coverage that is passed along to rate payers.

### **No Public Funding**

57% percent of those surveyed in a January 2025 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. But 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. The Assembly compels insurance providers to fully pay for thousands of elective abortions each year, without the mother paying any share of deductibles or copays. These insurance costs get passed along to insurance ratepayers- making all customers share in the burden of funding abortion violence.

### **Abortion Is Not Healthcare**

Abortion is not healthcare but an act of violence that intentionally ends the life of a living human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. Abortion enables the exploitation of women and girls by sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. We urge the Governor of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly to immediately cease public funding for abortion violence under the guise of “healthcare” and to cease the infringement on the people’s free exercise of religion and rights of conscience to not participate in abortion funding.

Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion cures no illness or disease and therefore is not healthcare. 85% of obstetricians and gynecologists refuse to commit abortions as their medical oath requires them to first do no harm to their patients – either mother or baby. In the rare cases when continuation of pregnancy threatens the physical life of the mother, medical providers may induce birth, but have a duty to treat both the mother and the baby. There is no law in any state that prohibits medical intervention to save the physical life of the mother in the case of medical emergency, such as ectopic pregnancy or abortion. These medical interventions do not constitute intentional abortion and are performed in hospitals, not in abortion clinics.



Recent radical enactments of the Maryland General Assembly have completely removed abortion from the spectrum of “healthcare”. Because of the *Abortion Care Access Act of 2022*, the state is denying poor women access to care by licensed physicians making abortion unsafe in Maryland. With the unregulated proliferation of chemical “Do-It-Yourself” abortion pills, women are self-administering back-alley style abortions, where they suffer and bleed alone, without examination or care by a doctor. When women experience complications from abortion, they are typically refused care by the abortionist and referred to hospital emergency rooms where medical providers are often coerced into completing abortions against their rights of conscience.

**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](http://www.BlackGenocide.org).

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to amend this bill to prohibit Program funding for abortion violence. We urge you to vote against any 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 human beings, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.**