

BY: Senator Dyson

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 125

(First Reading File Bill - Committee Reprint)

On page 86, in line 11, after “General Fund Appropriation” insert “, provided that no part of this appropriation, or any other state funds, may be used to provide abortion services to individuals who are eligible for medical benefits under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program in any instance in which federal reimbursement, in accordance with federal law governing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, is prohibited”.

On page 218, in Supplemental Budget No. 1, strike Amendment No. 5 in its entirety.

Explanation: The federal law governing CHIPS restricts abortion funding to three circumstances: to save the life of the mother, and in cases of rape and incest. Federal money, as well as State matching money, cannot be used for abortion except for those circumstances. The federal law does not prohibit, however, states from using state-only money to fund abortions beyond those three circumstances. This amendment would prohibit the expansion of state-only monies to fund abortions under this program, i.e., to children of child-bearing age up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

**Note:** Maryland restrictions on abortion funding include a “mental health” exception, which accounted for 98.5 percent of the Medicaid abortions in fiscal year 1996. (Source: Fiscal Services Budget Analysis)