



**Informational Statement – SB772**  
**Small Business COVID–19 Relief Act of 2021**  
Laura Bogley, JD - Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our chapters and members across the state, I respectfully request that you vote to exclude abortion providers, abortion services and abortion education from eligibility for public funding through Covid-19 relief funds. There is *bi-partisan unity* on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 58% percent of those surveyed in a January 2021 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state’s interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.

**ABORTION EXEMPTED FROM COVID CLOSURES** - Abortion providers in Maryland were exempted by Governor Larry Hogan from Covid-related restrictions as “essential services” and should not be eligible for Covid relief. Instead, abortion providers were permitted to take advantage of Governor Hogan’s emergency orders to expand their use of teleabortion to distribute chemical abortion pills without physicians **as required by Maryland law and the Food and Drug Administration**. As a result, *abortion sales have increased, not decreased during the Covid pandemic*. Still, Maryland taxpayers already have been forced to provide Covid-19 related grant funds to abortion providers. Planned Parenthood alone has received at least two Covid grants in the amount of \$80,000.00 through the **Community Resource Commission**.

**ABORTION HAS A PUBLIC COST** – The lives of Maryland citizens were put at risk by the continued operations of abortion businesses during Covid-related medical scarcities. By allowing abortion businesses to remain in operation during Covid medical scarcities, the state enabled abortion businesses to compete for critical emergency care personnel, PPE and supplies. Chemical abortion pills are *4 times more dangerous* than surgical abortions, and 50% of women experiencing abortion pill complications are sent to emergency rooms for lifesaving interventions. While hospitals were begging for additional PPE *to save lives*, abortion businesses were increasing the demand for hospital emergency services and supplies, yet soliciting donations of PPE for themselves *to continue taking lives*.

**ABORTION IS BIG BUSINESS** – Abortion is a 2 BILLION DOLLAR private industry that does not require or deserve public funding. Abortion is big business in Maryland and 60% of the members of the Maryland General Assembly were endorsed by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) in the last gubernatorial election. (Please see [BloodMoneytheFilm](#) .) According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their *Analysis of the FY2021 Maryland Executive Budget*, Maryland taxpayers, through the **Maryland Medical Assistance Program**, are being forced to pay for *elective* abortions. We spent at least \$6 million for 9,660 abortions, of those zero were for rape, incest or life of the mother. Taxpayers pay many more millions of dollars through MDH and MDE grants as well as for

subsidies to biomedical research labs and universities that increase the demand for aborted babies in Maryland to conduct unnecessary and unsuccessful embryonic and fetal tissue research.

**PREGNANCY IS NOT A DISEASE** - The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare and should not have been exempted from Covid closures as an "essential service". Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland. Only 1% of women choose adoption because the state prioritizes abortion over adoption counseling and programs.

Abortion is *never medically necessary* to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to *sustain the lives of both*. This is different from an abortion, which involves the *purposeful termination of fetal human life*. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that *both lives can be saved*.

**LOVE THEM BOTH** -80% 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 has held that the alleged constitutional "right" to an abortion "*implies 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.*" When a challenge to the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment reached the Supreme Court in 1980 in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, 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 affirmed that ***Roe v. Wade* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement.**

**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, including through Covid-related relief, grants or loans. We thank you for your consideration for the equal value of each human being, born and preborn and the rights of citizens to not subsidize the state-sanctioned killing of human beings. Thank you.**