



Informational Statement SB437
Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data - Pregnant and Parenting Students
By Laura Bogley, JD
Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our members across the state, we submit the following information regarding SB437. We applaud any effort to help create an educational environment that supports pregnant students in their decisions to parent their children or utilize adoption services. Data collection is an important tool, but this bill does not ensure that data will be collected and reported in a non-biased manner. As written, this bill will serve as a public subsidy for the abortion industry that is interested in this data for their particular use as *market analysis*, to justify their “reproductive health” programs and services to sell back to the state.

Title IX Includes Abortion

This bill is supported by the **National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL)** and builds upon ongoing incremental legislation to expand comprehensive reproductive health access to students in Maryland schools. Federal Title IX amendments already protect the rights of pregnant students in education and extend those rights to cover the *termination of pregnancy* or abortion. The data solicited through this bill will be used to require school systems to develop and implement policies and commit public resources towards expanding abortion to minor children, including providing contracts to abortion advocates and providers for curriculum, professional development training, school-based health clinic operations, the remote prescription of chemical abortion pills, and transportation to offsite reproductive healthcare providers including abortion providers.

No Public Subsidies to Two-Billion Dollar Abortion Industry

As a result of the state authorizing and subsidizing the abortion industry to have direct access to our schoolchildren over the last 40 years, the number of abortions has **INCREASED** not decreased. In their 2020 annual report Planned Parenthood reports committing an all-time high number of abortions (354,871 or 972 abortions daily). Their prenatal care and adoption referrals both dropped double digits from the previous year. Planned Parenthood commits 41 abortions for every one prenatal care service and 133 abortions for every adoption referral.

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.*” A January 2021 Marist poll showed that 58% of people oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion.

Love them Both

Pregnant teens do not need to choose between their education and the life of their child and 47 years of legal abortion has not solved the underlying problems that pregnant women face. 83% 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.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you ensure that any taxpayer funded data collection or reporting for the purpose of providing education and services to pregnant youth, be produced utilizing effective and ethical state oversight, and be fully inclusive to provide equal access and participation of representatives with a demonstrated pro-life perspective. Thank you for your consideration.