



Opposition Statement SB438
Public Schools – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports
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On behalf of our members across the state, we respectfully oppose **SB438 entitled *Public Schools – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports***. 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. **However this bill, as written, could commit public funding and policy to expand the reach of the abortion industry to school-aged children during the school day without the knowledge or consent of parents, as Planned Parenthood already has done in California.** <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>

This bill is part of ongoing incremental legislation to codify policies related to pregnant students already established by Federal Title IX amendments. Title IX applies to both pregnancy and the ***termination of pregnancy***, frustrating the stated purpose of this bill. This bill would authorize school systems to develop and implement policies that could 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.

Parental Notice and Consent Provides Better Outcomes for Minor Children

Maryland law recognizes the natural and legal right of parents to provide consent to their minor child’s medical care. But the influence of the abortion industry in developing school policy and curriculum has degraded the role of parents in their children’s healthcare decisions. The state has aggravated the situation by failing to require sex education curriculum to be medically accurate or age appropriate. Because of the influence of the abortion lobby, parents no longer have the opportunity to “opt in” to sex education for our children, but may only “opt out” if we are made aware at all. As a result of the state authorizing and subsidizing the abortion industry to have direct access to our schoolchildren, the number of abortions has INCREASED not decreased. In their 2020 annual report Planned Parenthood reports committing an all-time high number of abortions, while their family planning and prenatal services have dramatically declined. Furthermore, the lack of parental notification puts children at greater risk of undiagnosed and untreated abortion complications and enables abortion providers to evade liability for failure to report child abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking.

No Public Subsidies to Billion Dollar Abortion Industry

A recent Marist poll showed that 83% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children, and that 54% oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize abortion education and promotion. *Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund legitimate health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children.*

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you preserve the good purposes of the bill by amending it to expressly exclude its application to abortion education and services or otherwise issue an unfavorable report. Please protect Maryland’s school children from abuse and exploitation.