



## **Opposition Statement – HB534**

### **Public Health - Healthy Maryland Program - Establishment**

Laura Bogley, JD - Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

**On behalf of our members across the state, we strongly oppose any public funding for abortion and for this reason we oppose the establishment of a Universal Health Care in the State of Maryland. A Universal Health Care system or single-payer system will mandate taxpayer funding for abortion on demand, violating the people’s natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion ([READ MORE](#)). Guaranteed abortion funding will dramatically increase the number of deaths from abortion, the number of physical and psychological complications, and maternal and infant mortality rates.**

**Funding to Abortion Providers Increases Abortion** – Public funding for abortion providers has increased the number of abortions. Despite its claims that its primary focus is to provide health care for women, Planned Parenthood’s business model is built on profiting from abortions. **Planned Parenthood commits 41 abortions for every one prenatal care service and 133 abortions for every adoption referral. Planned Parenthood provides no pediatric care.** In their [Annual Report](#) released in January 2021, Planned Parenthood reports that the number of abortions they committed increased nearly 3% in 2019-2020 from the previous year for a total of 354,871 abortions. That’s over 972 babies killed daily- or one every 89 seconds. **In stark contrast, they report that their prenatal care and adoption referrals both dropped double digits from the previous year.**

**There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion.** State funding for abortion on demand is in direct conflict with the will of the people. In fact, 58% percent of those surveyed say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, including 31% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 65% of independents. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children.

**Pregnancy is not a Disease** - Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that systemically targets the poor and minority populations and ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey do not commit abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women’s healthcare.

**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*.

## **LIFE is our first Civil Right**

Abortion is the greatest civil rights abuse of our time and this bill forces the people to fund abortion to the detriment of Black lives. Legal abortion is having a genocidal effect specifically on Black Americans, who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry, with half of all pregnancies to Black women ending in abortion. Planned Parenthood was founded by racist eugenicists who believed that forced sterilization and later abortion, were necessary tools to reduce the growth in “unfit” populations, particularly those persons of African descent. Even today more than 78% of abortion clinics are located in Communities of Color. The government interest in health care is highly questionable as the state invests more in the corner abortion clinic than the corner grocery store. While Black Americans make up less than 13% of the population, they account for nearly 30% of all abortions. **As a result abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than gun violence and all other causes combined.** (For more information see <http://www.BlackGenocide.org>.)

**Love them both** - 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. We believe each human being is created EQUAL and the circumstances of conception do not diminish the worth of a human child. Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother 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 oppose this bill and any health care system that mandates abortion coverage. We ask you to honor your oath of office and protect the rights of all human beings, born and preborn. Thank you for your consideration.**