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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Governmental Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1139 – Public Funds on Expenditures for Abortion

Hearing: March 11, 2022

Position: Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland strongly opposes *House Bill 1139 – Public Funds – Prohibition on Expenditures for Abortion*. This legislation would eliminate abortion care coverage in the Medicaid, State Employees, and Maryland Health Benefit Exchange programs. It would also prohibit the state from contracting with any facility or individual practitioner who provides abortion care, thus effectively removing abortion care providers from networks in these same coverage programs.

Access to abortion care should not depend on income level or zip code. This bill would result in the loss of abortion care access for low-income Marylanders who rely on State programs for insurance coverage.

Abortion care should not be marginalized in the health care system. This bill, in violation of federal Medicaid law, would eliminate abortion providers from the insurance networks of over 2 million Marylanders. Most providers would be forced to remove abortion care from the continuum of health care services that they offer.

We ask for unfavorable report. This bill would have a severe impact on access to abortion care. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.