



Unfavorable

HB 1080/SB 778 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women

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Expanding Public Funding for Abortions of Immigrant Children

Maryland Right to Life (MDRTL) opposes HB1080/SB778 the so-called “Healthy Babies Equity Act”. While we whole-heartedly support public programs to promote healthy babies, this bill as written will commit additional public funding for *abortion* and divert public funds from lifesaving alternatives to abortion. This bill will incentivize the abortion industry to traffic pregnant women across our national borders to obtain “free” abortions. This bill also further incentivizes the abortion industry to engage in international abortion drug trade – selling lethal abortion drugs outside the United States. By enacting this bill, you will be empowering the abortion industry to prey upon immigrant women and their babies and authorizing Medicaid reimbursements to abortionists for killing the children of pregnant immigrants.

NO PUBLIC FUNDING - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is *bi-partisan unity* on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 54% percent of those surveyed in a January 2022 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

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.

INVEST IN LIFE - 81% 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.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTH CARE – Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion kills, not cures. 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. Abortion is never medically necessary and poses risks to women’s physical and emotional health as well as to the health of future pregnancies. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care. For each Planned Parenthood in Maryland, there are 14 federally qualifying health centers and 4 pro-life pregnancy centers providing FREE services for women. The Maryland Department of Health must give women real CHOICE and protect women from abortion coercion, by providing information about and referrals to lifesaving alternatives to abortion.

“D-I-Y Abortion” Drugs - *Telaborition* and other reckless public health policies that authorize the unregulated proliferation of chemical abortion pills are brazenly removing abortion further outside the

spectrum of “health care” as most women are now prescribed these lethal pills without the benefit of a physician’s examination or any medical care. Physicians now serve only a tangential role on paper, either as medical directors for clinics or as remote prescribers of abortion pills. Non-medical abortion providers will become eligible for Maryland Medicaid reimbursement as well as undisclosed gratuities from drug manufacturers.

The abortion industry itself has referred to the use of abortion pills as **“Do-It-Yourself” abortions**, claiming that the method is safe and easy. But chemical abortions are **4 (four) times more dangerous than surgical abortions**, presenting a high risk of hemorrhaging, infection, and even death. With the widespread distribution of chemical abortion pills, the demand on Emergency Room personnel to deal with abortion complications has increased 500%.

UNSAFE - The practice of abortion in America has become the **“red light district”** of medicine, populated by dangerous, substandard providers. With the proliferation of chemical abortion pills, the abortion industry itself has exposed women to **“back alley” style abortions**, where they bleed alone without medical supervision or assistance.

UNENFORCED - The Maryland Department of Health has failed to ensure that existing abortion providers and facilities are complying with Maryland law. Women continue to be injured and killed in Maryland because of abortion bias and ineffective enforcement of existing abortion regulations. The broad expansion of non-physician and even **non-medical abortion providers** will create an **enforcement nightmare** for the Maryland Department of Health.

We must protect pregnant women in Maryland, whether citizen or non-citizen from predatory abortion practices including human and sex trafficking and abortion coercion.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against this bill. If it is the intention of the Maryland General Assembly to promote healthy birth and delivery outcomes, you must eliminate abortion and abortion funding from your legislation. Abortion interests always will compete against healthy birth and delivery outcomes.

We appeal to you to prioritize the state’s interest in human life and restore to all people, born and preborn, citizen and non-citizen, our natural right to life.

READ ATTACHED ARTICLE: <https://www.lifenews.com/2018/02/22/young-woman-says-her-immigration-lawyers-pressured-her-to-get-an-abortion/>

Young Woman Says Her Immigration Lawyers Pressured Her to Get an Abortion

National | Grace Carr | Feb 22, 2018 | 1:01PM | Washington, DC



An illegal immigrant held under federal protection has indicated that lawyers representing her have pressured her to abort the child she is carrying.

The illegal immigrant charged that her guardians and legal attorneys, Rochelle Garza and Myles Garza, gave her documents Feb. 6 with information about seeking an abortion, according to recently court papers. The unnamed illegal minor, who is under the protection of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, did not want an abortion.

The Garzas [have represented](#) other illegal immigrant minors seeking abortions.

The young woman's handwritten note indicated she didn't want an abortion and wished to be represented by a different set of attorneys, [Fox News](#) reported.

"At this time I have changed my decision to have an abortion," the young woman said in the statement, according to the court filing.

"The people I saw yesterday were lawyers that made me sign, I ... do not need their help because I do not want to have an abortion," she wrote.

The Supreme Court was scheduled to hear the complaint in a closed-door conference Friday.

The woman's statement follows the Justice Department's complaint to the Supreme Court in November, alleging that the department had been "misled" by the Garzas. The Justice Department charged that the two lawyers had deceived government attorneys by scheduling an abortion at night, only hours before the high court was set to review the case.

The young woman's statement also comes after the Department of Health and Human Services released another minor illegal immigrant, identified by the pseudonym "Jane Moe," so that she could have an abortion in January.

The department's Office of Refugee Resettlement sought to prevent Moe from obtaining an abortion, but the American Civil Liberties Union stepped in, asking the District of Columbia's U.S. District Court to grant a temporary restraining order so that she could abort her child, [according to The Hill](#).

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Moe's release followed an ongoing battle concerning two illegal immigrants, aged 17 and 19, who asked the federal government to let them have abortions, [The Hill reported](#) in December. ACLU lawyers represented the two teens—Jane Roe and Jane Poe, who were 10 weeks and 22 weeks pregnant, respectively—in court.

President Donald Trump's administration appealed a decision by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan [to issue](#) a temporary restraining order against federal officials. The Trump administration tried to prevent the two illegal immigrants from having abortions, but was unsuccessful.

Chutkan also ruled in late October that pregnant illegal immigrant "Jane Doe"—who was in custody in Texas—could get an abortion, [Politico](#) reported. The girl, 17, crossed the border illegally and was roughly 15 weeks pregnant when she had her abortion Oct. 25.