



**Unfavorable
HB 1120
Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals –
Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment**

By Laura Bogley, JD
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On behalf of the Board of Directors of Maryland Right to Life, I respectfully oppose this bill as written because it will enable to abortion industry to prey on vulnerable pregnant inmates and drug-addicted mothers. Pregnant women within the prison population deserve quality prenatal care and support for healthy birth and delivery outcomes. However, the State of Maryland has failed to protect pregnant women from abortion coercion by regularly referring pregnant women to abortion providers for family planning and prenatal care. This bill would allow abortion-invested providers and service coordinators to direct pregnant inmates toward abortion rather than to life affirming prenatal care.

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.

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.

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.

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.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and any other measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all people, born and preborn, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.