



Opposition Statement HB1210
Public Institutions of Higher Education -
Student Health Insurance Plan Enrollment
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

We strongly oppose **HB1210**

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our followers across the state, we strongly object to HB1210. This bill forces county high schools to become an active partner with the abortion industry using taxpayer funds, subject minor children to abortion coercion at the hands of adults within the school system, and undermines parental rights to make medical decisions for their children. We once again urge the state to put the safety of patients, in this case schools children, before abortion politics and profit, by issuing an unfavorable report on this reckless bill.

The state of Maryland including the Department of Education and the Department of Health have become state sponsors of the abortion industry, using taxpayer funds to contract out educational curriculum development, programs training and school health services to questionable third-party organizations that are financially interested in abortion sales, including Planned Parenthood and Advocates for Youth.

Together they have established the existing *Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework* and the *Maryland Standards for School-Based Health Centers*. They are pushing a radical sexuality agenda beginning in kindergarten, that includes medically inaccurate curriculum that is not healthful or appropriate at any age. They are intentionally miseducating children about human reproduction, falsely instructing that a new human life does not begin at fertilization but at implantation, and therefore justify the use of common abortifacient drugs to "prevent pregnancy." This is despite the scientific fact that 95% of biologists agree that new life begins at fertilization.

Planned Parenthood cannot be trusted with the reproductive health of our youth. Abortion businesses have been exposed promoting irresponsible sex and providing faulty contraception to meet abortion sale quotas.

Carol Everett operated abortion clinics in the Dallas area in the 1970s and explained how sex-ed was an important part of cultivating and maintaining abortion sales among younger clientele: "Sex-ed was calculated, she said, 'to separate the children from their values and their parents,' adding that, at one point, her business goal 'was to assure every girl between the ages of 13 and 18 have three to five abortions.'" Finally, in junior high, Everett said, "My goal was to get them sexually active on a low dose birth control pill that we knew they would get pregnant on. How do you do that? You give them a low dose birth control pill that has to be taken



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accurately at the same time every single day. And you know and I know there's not a teen in the world who does everything the same time every day."

Recently, the Maryland General Assembly removed oversight of School Based Health Centers from the Department of Education and gave the department of Health unilateral bureaucratic control over health education. They broadly expanded what type of providers may manage and operate School Based Health Centers. We are opposed to any policy that allows Planned Parenthood to manage clinics on school grounds as they currently do in Los Angeles, California (see Washington Examiner article).

Under the influence of the abortion lobby, including Advocates for Youth, the state has given adults unfettered access to prey on school children. During the school day, a minor girl may undergo a medical procedure to implant birth control, get free transportation to an abortion mill, or possibly receive chemical abortion pills, all with an excused absence and without parental notice or consent (SBHC attachment). The lack of parental notification under existing standards, puts students at greater risk of abortion coercion, undiagnosed abortion complications including death, and enables pedophiles and sexual abusers to continue abusing child victims.

Maryland is failing to protect children. The Assembly removed protections under the law for children by reducing the age of medical consent for behavioral health services to age 12. Mental health, including anxiety or depression has long been used to justify taxpayer funded abortion including on minor girls. Many of the same businesses who commit abortions, are expanding their business models and their reach over defenseless children by pushing puberty blockers and gender mutilation. Some have expressed their intention to use school psychologists and counselors as a feeder system to prey upon school children for their own financial gain.

Parental notice and consent provide better outcomes for youth. Maryland Right to Life trusts parents to make the best decisions about their children's health. State law must recognize the natural and legal right of parents to provide consent for their children's medical care. But the state has repeatedly demonstrated a wanton disregard for the rights of parents and the welfare of school children. Under the influence of the abortion industry, the state removed the requirement that parents must first give permission for their child to participate in the sex ed curriculum, or to "opt in." Parents now have the obligation to "opt out" if they are provided notice at all.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and



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family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

Funding restrictions are constitutional. The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. 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 held that there is "*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.*"

We urge you to put parents and children before politics and profit and issue an unfavorable report on this dangerous and predatory bill, **HB1210**.