



Opposition Statement HB186

Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support
(Victim Services Stabilization Act)

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We Oppose HB186 as Written

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully oppose HB186. "Victim Services" is broadly defined, allowing inclusion of organizations such as Planned Parenthood or other organizations that promote and commit abortions.

Without prohibitive language, Planned Parenthood and/or other organizations that promote and commit abortions could receive grants or funding provided by this bill. Page 2 of the bill states, "(B)(2) The Victim Services programs shall be developed and located to facilitate their use by alleged victims residing in surrounding areas." and "(C)(1) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services may award grants to public or private nonprofit organizations to operate the victim services programs." We oppose the expanded use of taxpayer funds for abortion that this bill would allow.

Abortion Coercion Hurts Victims

While we do not take a position on the use of rape kits within the first 24 hours of an assault, we ask the state to protect vulnerable victims from abortion coercion at the hands of abortion businesses who stand to gain financially by selling abortions. Rape victims should not be referred to Planned Parenthood or other abortion businesses. 3 out of 4 women say they felt pressured to have an abortion. Many women report suffering physical, emotional and psychological harm from abortion procedures. Women may be permanently maimed or made infertile from botched abortion procedures. The emotional scars from abortion often effect women more than the assault itself.

Pregnancy is not a Disease

Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that 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 perform abortions on their patients is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for comprehensive health care. There are 14 federally qualifying health care centers for every Planned Parenthood in Maryland. Abortion has a disproportionate impact on Black Americans who have long been targeted by the abortion industry for eugenics purposes. As a result abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than gun violence or any other causes like heart disease or cancer.

No public funding for abortions

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland. State funding for abortion on demand with taxpayer funds is in direct conflict with the will of the people. A 2023 Marist poll showed that 60% of Americans, both “pro-life” and “pro-choice” oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for a woman’s abortion.

Love them both

This bill stands in conflict with the fact that 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. 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 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.*”

If it is the intention of this Assembly to protect victims, we urge you to protect victims of sexual assault from being victimized a second time by the abortion industry. We respectfully ask for your amendment or an unfavorable report on HB186.