

**2023-01-25 SB148 (Support With Amendments).pdf**

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Position: FWA

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January 25, 2023

**TO:** The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** SB 148 – Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act): **Support with Amendment**

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The Office of the Attorney General (“the OAG”) urges the Budget and Taxation Committee to favorably report Senate Bill 148 after adopting an amendment, which adds the OAG to the list of entities the bill would require the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services to “regularly consult, collaborate with, and consider the recommendations regarding allocation of funding from” (Md. Code, Criminal Procedure § 11-934(d)).

The OAG, similar to local State’s Attorneys’ Offices in Maryland, provides support to victims of crime as they navigate the criminal justice system. Given the breadth of the OAG’s jurisdiction, this work is extensive. It’s primarily performed by the OAG’s Victim Witness Coordinator and is available during all phases of a case—investigation, pre-trial litigation, trial, sentencing, post-conviction, and/or appeal—and in venues throughout the state. Many of the individuals the OAG seeks to support have been victimized by serious criminal offenses under the purview of different OAG units and divisions, such as the Organized Crime Unit, the Criminal Appeals Division, the Independent Investigations Division, and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The OAG provides victim services ranging from statutorily mandated notification to trial preparation and court accompaniment. The OAG also helps crime victims with necessary travel and relocation and strives to connect victims with available government and community-based services.

Because of this work, the OAG requests its inclusion in Section (d) of SB 148 and urges a favorable report with such an amendment.

cc: Committee Members

# Big Govt.pdf

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Position: UNF

STOP enlarging the pockets of our government by taking away from Maryland citizens. This is not the governments job. The role of government to protect the RIGHTS of citizens so they can provide for themselves. STOP the equal outcomes which only serve to race to the bottom for everyone. All people end up at the absolute bottom. Socialism is equal outcomes which equal poverty for everyone. Socialism is the stage of transition prior to communism and characterized by the imperfect implementation of collectivist principles. STOP the march toward communism NOW.

# **SB148 Written Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



### **Opposition Statement SB148**

Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support  
(Victim Services Stabilization Act)  
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

#### **We Strongly Oppose SB148**

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully yet strongly object to SB148. The funding of victim services programs would allow for the inclusion of organizations such as Planned Parenthood or other organizations that promote and provide abortion services. Page 2 of SB148 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.” Without prohibitive language, Planned Parenthood and/or other organizations that promote and provide abortion services could receive grants or funding provided by this bill. We oppose the expanded use of taxpayer funds for abortion services that this bill would allow.

#### **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 and all other causes combined.

#### **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.



**Opposition Statement SB148, page 2 of 2**

Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support  
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Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

**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.*"

We ask for an unfavorable report given for **SB148**.