



### **Opposition Statement SB791**

Primary and Secondary Education - Public School Employees -  
Job Duties and Salaries  
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

#### **We Oppose SB791**

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to SB791. This bill expands the jobs and duties of public school employees in a broad manner that would extend beyond the academic curriculum, as well as bringing employees without teaching degrees to “write certain curriculum and assessment plans” of an unspecified nature. The bill also increases the salaries for public school employees who are now designated as “certified professional individual(s).” The vague language of the bill would allow for the hiring of individuals from the abortion industry for teaching in “health” areas and direct funding toward non-academic subjects. Maryland taxpayers should not be expected to pay the salaries of employees from the abortion industry. We urge an amendment be added excluding any funding from this bill to be used for abortion purposes.

**Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion.** Maryland taxpayers are forced to subsidize the abortion industry through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs involved in reproductive health policy include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children’s Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

**Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.** Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland, and taxpayers should not be forced to fund the employees of the abortion industry and provide jobs for them in the school system. California has already begun to do this (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>). Let’s not let this happen in Maryland. 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 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.

Maryland Right to Life urges the addition of an amendment to exclude any funding for this bill to be used for abortion purposes. Without this amendment, we ask that you oppose this **SB791** in its entirety.