



Opposition Statement SB879

Job Help for All

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We Oppose SB879

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to **SB879**. The Abortion Care Access Act, passed during the 2022 session, removed the physician requirement for performing abortions and created Abortion Care Clinical Training Programs with a protected \$3.5 million training program fund. That law, due to the lack of any medical background as a requirement, has opened the door for any number of apprenticeships or training programs to be used for abortion purposes. Without a stated prohibition, this bill would allow the Career Counseling Program with its "Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors" to be used to recruit participants for the abortion industry workforce. We oppose any funds for this bill being used to fund the training of participants for the abortion industry. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to pay for the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry. We urge an amendment be added to exclude this bill being used for any 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 **SB879** in its entirety.