

To Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to give an unfavorable review to SB 341, which requires public senior higher education institutions to develop and implement a reproductive health services plan. I ask you to oppose this bill for the following reasons.

Since this bill pertains to public institutions in Maryland, it presumably will be funded by taxpayer dollars. The bill will require Maryland citizens to fund abortion access plans even if they have sincerely held religious or moral objections to abortion. The bill states that public senior higher education institutions must provide the following abortion care services: 24-hour access to over-the-counter contraception through the student health center, retail establishments on campus, or vending machines; evidence-based reproductive health education services provided by the student health center, peer educators, or other health education programs; development of a referral network of off-campus reproductive health service providers, including pharmacies, located within a reasonable proximity to the campus and access to transportation or other wraparound services to support students using off-campus reproductive health services.

How will these services be funded? If they are funded by taxpayer dollars, then you will be violating the religious liberties of Marylanders who cannot in good conscience fund even one cent of abortion services. If they are funded by tuition, then the religious liberties of students who cannot fund abortion services in good conscience will also be violated. There are many Marylanders who hold themselves to Proverbs 24:11-12, which warns, "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?" This bill will violate the conscience of those who take this admonition seriously and cannot fund any abortion services with their tax dollars or tuition.

Additionally, I am concerned that "off-campus reproductive health services" may be expanded to include other medical interventions such as cross-sex hormones that are both medically risky for users and violate the conscience of some Maryland taxpayers. Since reproductive health service providers such as Planned Parenthood have also gotten into the "gender affirming care" business, it is not unreasonable to fear that this bill could open the door for the public to fund "gender affirming care" through higher education institutions' required reproductive health services plans.

For these reasons, I ask that you give an unfavorable review of SB 341. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Kuk

*Baltimore City*