



Opposition Statement SB628

School-Based Health Centers - Services, Infrastructure, and Funding
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant
Maryland Right to Life

We oppose SB628 On behalf of over 200,000 followers across the state, we object to **SB628**. As written, the bill would allow entities that promote and provide abortions to manage and or provide employees for school health centers. This is already happening in California (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>). We oppose the abortion industry using the public school system to bypass parental rights to gain access to minor children and the use of public money for this purpose. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from the application of this bill.

Maryland is a state sponsor of abortion. This bill would allow the public school system to be used as a conduit into the abortion industry and use taxpayer money to do so. The state of Maryland including the Department of Education and the Department of ehealth have become state sponsors of the abortion industry, using taxpayer funds to contract out educational curriculum development programs, training and school health services to questionable third-party organizations that are financially interested in abortion sales, including Planned Parenthood and Advocates for Youth.

Together they have established the existing **Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework** and the **Maryland Standards for School-Based Health Centers**. They are pushing a radical sexuality agenda beginning in kindergarten, that includes medically inaccurate curriculum that is not healthful or appropriate at any age. They are intentionally miseducating children about human reproduction, falsely instructing that a new human life does not begin at fertilization but at implantation, and therefore justify the use of common abortifacient drugs to “prevent pregnancy”. This is despite the scientific fact that 95% of biologists agree that new life begins at fertilization.

Recently, the Maryland General Assembly removed oversight of School Based Health Centers from the Department of Education and gave the Department of Health unilateral bureaucratic control over health education. They broadly expanded what type of providers may manage and operate School-Based Health Centers. We are opposed to any policy that allows Planned Parenthood to manage clinics on school grounds as they currently do in Los Angeles, California (see Washington Examiner article).

Parental notice and consent provide better outcomes for youth. State law must recognize the natural and legal right of parents to provide consent for their children’s medical care. But the state has repeatedly demonstrated a wanton disregard for the rights of parents and the welfare of school children. Under the influence of the abortion industry, the state removed the requirement that parents must first give permission for their child to participate in the sex ed curriculum, or to “opt in”. Parents now have the obligation to “opt out” if they are provided notice at all.



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Maryland fails to protect minor girls. The Assembly reduced the age of medical consent for behavioral health services to 12 years of age. The Department of Health list mental health as a reason for public funding of abortion, including for minor girls. Many of the businesses that commit abortions are now dispensing puberty blockers and cross-hormones. Again, gender dysphoria is a mental health condition. Minor girls could seek abortion, the lethal chemical abortion drugs and gender identity drugs without parental consent or knowledge. Telehealth appointments provided by the public schools would make it easier for the abortion industry and businesses that dispense these dangerous drugs to prey on minor girls.

D-I-Y Abortions Endanger Women: Public policy has failed to keep pace with the abortion industry's rapid deployment of chemical abortion pills. "D-I-Y" abortion is normalizing "back alley abortion" where women self administer and hemorrhage without medical supervision or assistance.

Chemical abortion is four times more likely to result in complications than surgical abortion. To date more than 6,000 complications have been reported and 26 women have been killed through chemical abortion since its approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Because half of all women experiencing complications from chemical abortions receive emergency intervention through hospitals, the rate of abortion complications is dramatically underreported.

The abortion industry is only concerned with abortion remaining legal. The state of Maryland has a duty to ensure that abortion is safe and must intervene on behalf of women and girls by adopting protocols and standards to protect the health and wellbeing of women and girls.

Maryland Right to Life opposes the promotion of the abortion industry via the public school system. For these reasons, without an amendment excluding abortion funding, we respectfully ask you to oppose **SB628**.