



Opposition Statement HB593

Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment

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Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, Maryland Right to Life respectfully objects to HB593. While offering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training is admirable, the language of the bill for the other training specified is broad and vague. We oppose the promotion of abortion and abortion-related services as part of any of the programs listed including “a mental health wellness program or a peer mentoring program,” and “health and safety trainings to students and school personnel that lead to certifications.” We oppose entities that promote and provide abortions being used to “provide service hours to students for participating in health and safety activities,” and we oppose entities that promote and/or provide abortions being advertised on the school’s website as a resource for “a mental health wellness program.” Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude abortion education and any abortion access from the application of this bill.

Abortion is not healthcare. Abortion is not mental healthcare. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills the unborn child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women and girls. Abortion exploits women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue their crimes and victimization. Abortion is the leading cause of death in the Black community, and is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of all time.

The 2023 Marist poll once again shows that the majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 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 which aim to save the lives of mothers and their children, including programs to improve pregnancy and delivery outcomes, well baby care, and parenting classes.

The increasing use of the lethal chemical abortion drugs threatens the lives of women and girls. Peer mentoring programs must exclude abortion promotion, especially the promotion of the abortion pills. Chemical abortions are four times more dangerous than surgical abortions. Peer to peer mentoring must not include the encouragement of dangerous medicine.

Without exclusion of abortion services, abortion funding and abortion education, we oppose **HB593**.