

I strongly oppose HB 0705 that would make Maryland taxpayers be to be forced to pay for all abortions when a majority of Marylanders believe there should be at least some sensible restrictions on abortion. This bill forces healthcare providers to participate in abortion, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion. It will be infringing on the Freedom of Speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, by barring all future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial birth abortion or dismemberment bans. Maryland already has extremely liberal abortion laws that allow abortion for any reason up to birth.

Maryland lawmakers still have the right to pass laws to protect women's health throughout pregnancy, to restrict abortion after viability, and to ban all public funding for abortion. This proposed Abortion Amendment would take the power to regulate abortion away from our elected representatives and force Maryland taxpayers to fully fund all abortions.

This bill needs to be strongly defeated.