

I strongly oppose SB859/HB808, which enables abortionists to traffic and exploit women for profit. By enacting this legislation, the Maryland General Assembly will become a state-sponsor of interstate human trafficking, will aid and abet sex traffickers and will recklessly disregard your duty to provide for the public welfare of residents and non-residents alike.

Article IV of the Constitution of the United States requires states to help enforce civil judgments by other states. This bill not only attempts to circumvent the Constitution, but would enact a severe financial penalty to deter individuals from complying with Constitutional provisions.

Through the enactment of the *Maryland Abortion Care Access Act of 2022*, the Maryland General Assembly has **removed abortion from the spectrum of healthcare** by repealing the requirement that only a licensed physician may perform abortion. Now any "certified provider" may provide chemical or surgical abortion through birth. Physicians now serve only a tangential role on paper *if at all*, either as remote medical directors for abortion clinics or as remote prescribers of abortion pills.

As a result of these pernicious policies, the practice of abortion in Maryland has become the "red light district" of medicine, populated by dangerous, substandard providers.

Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. The Black population has long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in minority communities. As a result abortion has become the leading killer of Black lives. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide.

The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and any appropriation should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries. The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving annual reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

For these and other reasons, I oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cantilena
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