



Opposition Statement HB16

Primary and Secondary Education - Title IX - Notice (Hear Our Voices Act)

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant

Maryland Right to Life

We Strongly Oppose HB16

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully yet strongly object to HB16. Federal Title IX already requires all of the provisions stated in HB16. In addition to the provisions stated, the cost of implementing and enforcing Federal Title IX is covered by federal funding given to the school. Codifying Federal Title IX into Maryland law is redundant and superfluous. Further, the bill requires information regarding support measures which are not delineated. This bill would trigger a request for appropriations for implementing a state law that is covered by Federal Title IX and creates a conduit to use taxpayer funds for the unspecified "support measures" which could include Planned Parenthood or other agencies that promote and provide abortion services.

Pregnancy is not a Disease

Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey do not perform abortions on their patients is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for comprehensive health care. There are 14 federally qualifying health care centers for every Planned Parenthood in Maryland. Abortion has a disproportionate impact on Black Americans who have long been targeted by the abortion industry for eugenics purposes. As a result abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than gun violence and all other causes combined.

No public funding for abortions

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland. State funding for abortion on demand with taxpayer funds is in direct conflict with the will of the people. A 2022 Marist poll showed that 54% of Americans, both "pro-life" and "pro-choice" oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion.

Love them both

This bill stands in conflict with the fact that 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.



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Funding restrictions are constitutional

The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that "*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*", and held that there is "*no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.*"

HB16 is a restatement of Federal Title IX as a state law and could result in taxpayer funding of abortion services. We ask for an unfavorable report for HB16.