



Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable William J. Wivell

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 23, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 641 – *Income Tax – Pregnancy Options Tax Credit*

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **opposes** House Bill 641.

House Bill 641 creates a state tax credit program for “pregnancy resource centers” also known as “crisis pregnancy centers.” A donation to a pregnancy resource center is already tax deductible under State law if the entity is registered as a 501(c)(3). However, the bill incorrectly implies that donations to these entities are not already tax-deductible. Regardless, MDACOG opposes this bill as it appears the intent of the legislation is to incentivize people to donate to “pregnancy resource centers”.

As reflected in an academic brief from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, crisis pregnancy centers “often intentionally create delays that can leave people unable to access abortion care in their communities, forcing them to continue their pregnancies.”ⁱ In other words, it has been demonstrated that these organizations interfere in bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom. MDACOG strongly opposes the State incentivizing such organizations. An unfavorable report is requested.

ⁱ <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/abortion-is-essential/trending-issues/issue-brief-crisis-pregnancy-centers>