



Opposition Statement SB949

Consumer Protection – Self-Administered Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits
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On behalf of the over 200,000 followers across the state, Maryland Right to Life strongly opposes SB949. We oppose the appropriation and use of any public funds for the purposes of abortion. The establishment of this new, nonlapsing fund for a training program is designated to fund grants to nonprofit entities. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude from this bill any organization that promotes and provides abortions.

Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers are nonprofit entities. The program laid out in this bill, meant to help provide resources for victims of sexual assault, could easily be exploited not only to provide staff for the abortion industry and training for abortion industry staff but to provide a pipeline of clients for the abortion industry.

Maryland is subsidizing corporate abortion. Abortion is big business in Maryland at the expense of the taxpayers. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry through Medicaid, various state grants and contracts and private health insurance carriers. This program would provide another grant that would be a pass-through for abortion funding. This would be a “nonlapsing fund” again at taxpayer expense. The majority of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer funds for abortion.

Abortion facilities have a single focus. Victims of sexual assault deserve to receive care from entities that are not in business for the singular purpose of promoting and providing abortion. Women and girls who are victims of sexual abuse and assault deserve the specialized care of highly trained physicians and therapists.

Maryland is failing to protect children. The state shields abortionists by allowing them to commit abortions unfettered and without reporting requirements to the state or the Centers for Disease Control. While abortion providers are supposed to be subject to the law as mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse, we are aware of no such report. Inspections of abortion clinics and practices are complaint driven only. But even after two women suffered near fatal injuries from botched abortion in Bethesda, the Maryland Department of Health refused to inspect the facility until after legal action was taken by the victims.

Women and girls who are victims of sexual assault deserve better than to be funneled into the abortion industry. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from this bill. Without it, we ask for an unfavorable report on SB949.