



## **UNFAVORABLE- SEEKING AMENDMENT**

SB188/HB172

Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund - Alterations

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Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we object to provisions of this bill that without amendment could be used to appropriate additional public grant funds to further subsidize the multi-billion dollar abortion industry. We strongly oppose the use of public funds for corporate abortion welfare or to cover costs for abortion facility infrastructure, including cameras, lighting and other clinic improvements under the guise of “public safety”.

### **70% of Violence Committed by Abortion Rights Activists**

In 2024, the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 975 to provide millions of dollars in public safety grants to abortion facilities under the false premise and defamatory claims that abortion facilities in Maryland are facing increased threats of violence from anti-abortion “terrorists” and therefore require millions in taxpayer subsidies to enhance facility security.

The Assembly disregarded testimony from Maryland Right to Life that informed you that FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before Congress that roughly 70% of the cases of abortion related violence or threats of violence were perpetrated by pro-abortion assailants against pro-life victims. (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2878435/seventy-percent-of-fbis-abortion-related-violence-cases-have-anti-abortion-victims-since-dobbs-wray/>)

In Maryland, the truth is that pro-abortion extremists have committed escalating acts of violence and vandalism against pro-life citizens and pregnancy resource centers since the Supreme Court’s 2022 reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. At least 6 (six) physical assaults against pro-life citizens in Maryland have been reported to police since 2022 including three incidents of vandalism against pregnancy resource centers. (See **attachment**).

At least 100 pregnancy resource centers and pro-life groups nationwide have been attacked and vandalized since the *Dobb*’s leak in early May 2022. Pro-abortion domestic terrorists have claimed responsibility, and delivered on their promise of a “summer of rage“. The violent crimes against people practicing the tenets of their faith should be properly classified as hate crimes and prosecuted accordingly.

Despite these facts and the dire women’s health statistics in Maryland, the State continues to sponsor the abortion monopoly thereby depriving women equal access to legitimate reproductive healthcare. The state of Maryland has no legal obligation to fund abortions or to subsidize the abortion industry. If the state elects to do so, it must provide equal appropriations for infrastructure improvements to pro-life pregnancy resource centers, churches and community-based organizations that provide abortion alternatives to women who deserve the option to choose life for their children.

## **The State is Failing to Provide Equal Protection**

These documented attacks against pro-life citizens in Maryland should be properly classified as hate crimes and added to the Maryland State Police *Hate Bias Report*, as the victims were peacefully practicing the tenets of their Christian faith. But to date, the state has failed to charge or prosecute any pro-abortion assailants, even known assailants identified by photographic evidence. A longstanding principle of American jurisprudence, which has biblical roots is the phrase popularized by William E. Gladstone “*justice delayed is justice denied*” and indeed justice has been denied to pro-life citizens by the state of Maryland.

Similarly, in December 2023, members of Congress have challenged Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke over her department’s allegedly discriminatory practices during a House Judiciary Committee hearing. Congressman Chip Roy, R-TX, a former U.S. attorney, questioned Clarke’s and the rest of the Biden administration’s interpretation of the controversial **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act**. He noted that this law “**protects abortion clinics, pregnancy resource centers, and houses of worship alike.**” “However,” he continued, “the division of prosecution under the FACE Act shows a significant bias toward prosecuting FACE Act violations involving abortion clinics.” In making this point, Roy specifically referenced the case of pro-life activist [Mark Houck](#), who sued the Biden Department of Justice. (<https://catholicvote.org/house-judiciary-committee-confronts-biden-appointee-over-face-act/>)

Congressman Roy stated that the leak of the Supreme Court’s draft *Dobbs* decision “gave rise to widespread demonstrations and attacks on pro-life facilities.” He also stated “In fact following the leak, more than a hundred pro-life facilities were vandalized or damaged including by arson,” he said. “Two hundred eighteen Catholic churches have been attacked” since the *Dobbs* leak, Roy added, citing Catholic Vote’s [violence tracker](#).

## **Maryland is State Sponsor of Corporate Abortion**

Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers for thousands of elective abortions, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to fully cover abortion violence to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program.

Programs that utilize public funding for abortion, abortion providers or promotion and other abortion-related activities include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children’s Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland Assembly for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP), Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and others.

**No Public Funding-** Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. Medicaid funding for abortion was intended to be limited to cases of rape, incest or to save the physical life of the mother but out of 11,567 abortions paid for in 2022, less than 10 were for these authorized reasons and the vast majority were elective (non-medical) abortions.

There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose tax payer funding of abortion. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers 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.

**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.*”

### **State is Failing Pregnant Women**

Paradoxically, the state ranks among the worst in the nation for infant mortality, preterm birth rates, and has seen a rise in severe maternal morbidity since 2019. Women in underserved communities lack access to high-risk obstetric care, face challenges in obtaining mental and behavioral health services, experience increased rates of substance abuse and overdose, and are deprived of essential perinatal education for healthy pregnancies.

The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations 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 has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.
- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation

between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.

- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

**Abortion is not Healthcare**—Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion is NOT healthcare and is never medically necessary. Abortion is the intentional, violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion providers who are mandatory reporters under the law, refuse to report to law enforcement suspected cases of rape or abuse.

The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which involves the purposeful termination of fetal human life. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that both lives can be saved.

**Disparate Impact Statement - Abortion is Black Genocide**- Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. It is believed that nearly half of all pregnancies of Black women end in abortion. As a result, Black Americans are no longer the leading minority population, dropping second to the Hispanic population. People of color have long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion by eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. 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. For more information please see [www.BlackGenocide.org](http://www.BlackGenocide.org).

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge your amendment of this bill, to appropriately prioritize the use of public safety grant monies for legitimate community safety needs, rather than to serve as additional corporate welfare to the abortion industry.**

**The evidence does not support the false argument that abortion clinics are under increasing threats of violence in Maryland. To the contrary, it is pro-life pregnancy resource centers which are under attack and need your protection.**

**REPORTED ACTS OF PRO-ABORTION VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM IN MARYLAND SINCE 2022**

MAY 1, 2022

**BALTIMORE COUNTY**

Alpha Pregnancy Center, a faith-based pregnancy resource center in Reisterstown, Maryland was vandalized including being spray painted with the words "If Abortions aren't safe, then neither are you". Pro-abortion domestic terrorism group Jane's Revenge took credit for the vandalism but no prosecutions have been initiated.

MAY 4, 2022

**FREDERICK COUNTY**

Care-Net of Frederick, a faith-based pregnancy resource center was vandalized and spray painted with the words "Go to Planned Parenthood instead." The center was vandalized twice previously. The cost to the center of implementing security measures was \$14,000 all paid by private donations.

MAY 8, 2022

**FREDERICK COUNTY**

BirthRight of Frederick Pregnancy Resource Center was vandalized with graffiti.

JUNE 2, 2022

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Nicholas John Roske made an attempt against the life of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Roske reportedly was upset about the leaked Dobbs decision. He was armed with a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray and duct tape.

MAY 2023

**BALTIMORE CITY**

Two senior pro-life citizens were brutally beaten while praying and practicing sidewalk advocacy outside of the Planned Parenthood on N. Howard Street. Mark Crosby was beaten and kicked in the face to within an inch of his life and suffered permanent injury. Photographic evidence of the pro-abortion assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.

JULY 8, 2023

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

83 year old pro-life citizen, Olga Fairfax, was brutally attacked while praying outside an abortion facility in Silver Spring, Maryland. A young woman repeatedly punched Olga and sprayed her skin and clothes with spray paint. Photographic evidence of the pro-abortion assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.





Mark Crosby was brutally beaten while praying outside the Baltimore City Planned Parenthood.



Police were provided with video evidence of the abortion terrorist. An arrest has been made.