



Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 848: *Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment*

Senate Bill 848 will harm parents' rights in several ways:

1. Lack of Parental Notification or Consent for Minors: One of the most significant concerns is the possibility that minors could access abortion services without the involvement or knowledge of their parents. Expanding access to abortion services through public funding could increase the likelihood that minors are able to seek an abortion without parental consent or notification, bypassing parents' rights to be involved in their child's healthcare decisions. Parents should have the ability to guide their children through difficult decisions, including those regarding reproductive health, and this bill could undermine that fundamental right.

2. Erosion of Parental Authority: Senate Bill 848 may shift the decision-making power away from parents, making it easier for minors or young adults to make decisions about abortion without the support or guidance of their parents. Many parents feel it is their responsibility to make healthcare decisions for their children, and this bill could potentially undermine that authority by allowing individuals to seek abortion care without parental consent.

3. Encouragement of Alternative Options Without Parental Knowledge: The bill may incentivize healthcare providers to offer abortion services or other reproductive health options to minors and young adults

without engaging parents in the decision-making process. If public funds are used to expand access to abortion, it might promote a system where healthcare professionals are encouraged to assist in abortions without first informing or involving the parents, leaving them out of an important conversation about their child's wellbeing.

4. Potential for Increased Government Intervention: By increasing the role of the state in providing abortion services, Senate Bill 848 could create a situation where the government has more influence over personal and family decisions. Parents have the right to make informed choices about their children's healthcare, and expanding state-funded abortion services might lead to concerns that state interests override parental rights in sensitive medical decisions.

5. Limited Focus on Alternatives to Abortion: If the focus shifts too heavily on facilitating access to abortion services, parents may feel that their rights to ensure their child is fully informed about all available options are overlooked. Parents often want their children to be aware of alternatives like adoption, parenting support, and counseling, and public funding for abortion services might deprioritize these options, limiting the ability of parents to guide their children in considering all possible paths.

6. Violation of Conscience: Finally, the bill introduces a program funded by taxpayer dollars to support abortion services, which many Marylanders find deeply troubling. For many Marylanders abortion represents a moral and ethical issue that cannot be overlooked. Using public funds to support these services forces taxpayers to contribute to a practice that conflicts with their personal beliefs, values, and religious convictions. This raises significant concerns about the separation of government and personal moral or religious beliefs.

In summary, SB 848 will harm parents' rights by limiting their involvement in decisions related to their minor children's reproductive health, eroding parental authority, and shifting decision-making power away from families and into the hands of healthcare providers or government entities. Parents should have the right to be informed and involved in major decisions regarding their children's health, and this bill will diminish that fundamental responsibility and authority. **For all these reason, Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urgently requests an unfavorable report for SB 848.**

