



## **UNFAVORABLE STATEMENT**

### **SB848/HB930 Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment**

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On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we strongly object to the State's endorsement and promotion of abortion violence and perpetrators of abortion violence. This bill allows the lethal abortion industry to target poor and underinsured women by establishing an abortion grant fund to terminate the pregnancies of women who cannot afford proper healthcare. Poor women do not need free abortions. They need public support programs that will empower them to choose life for their children. For this reason we urge your unfavorable report.

By using insurance premiums to create this abortion fund, the State is continuing to compel both public and private insurance companies to fund abortion violence. Since 2022, the State has forced most private insurance companies to fully fund elective abortions with no co-pays or deductibles. As a result, all insurance rate payers are forced to subsidize abortion as a method of birth control. This not only increases healthcare costs for all, it also infringes on our First Amendment freedoms including rights of conscience and the free exercise of religion.

Maryland Right to Life supports policy that recognizes the equal value of each human being regardless of the circumstances of their conception and reminds policymakers that abortion is not a medical treatment and is never medically necessary – and therefore, does not deserve public funding or promotion.

### **Abortion Is Not Healthcare**

We urge the Governor of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly to immediately cease all funding for the promotion of abortion violence under the guise of “healthcare” and to cease the infringement on the people's free exercise of religion and rights of conscience to not participate in abortion funding.

Induced abortion is not healthcare but an act of violence that intentionally ends the life of a living human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. Abortion enables the exploitation of women and girls by sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization.

Pregnancy is not a disease and induced abortion cures no illness or disease and therefore is not healthcare. 85% of obstetricians and gynecologists refuse to commit induced abortions as their medical oath requires them to first do no harm to their patients – either mother or baby. In the rare cases when continuation of pregnancy threatens the physical life of the mother, medical providers may induce birth, but have a duty to treat both the mother and the baby. There is no law in any state that prohibits medical intervention to save the physical life of the mother in the case of medical emergency, such as ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage. These medical interventions do not constitute induced abortion and are performed in hospitals, not in abortion clinics.



Recent radical enactments of the Maryland General Assembly have completely removed abortion from the spectrum of “healthcare”. Because of the *Abortion Care Access Act of 2022*, the state is denying poor women access to care by licensed physicians making abortion unsafe in Maryland. With the unregulated proliferation of chemical “Do-It-Yourself” abortion pills, women are self-administering back-alley style abortions, where they suffer and bleed alone, without examination or care by a doctor. When women experience complications from abortion, they are typically refused care by the abortionist and referred to hospital emergency rooms where medical providers are often coerced into completing abortions against their rights of conscience.

### **Abortion Industry Profits from Unplanned Pregnancies**

Planned Parenthood does not plan parenthood; it ends parenthood. The abortion industry is financially invested in unplanned pregnancy and cannot be trusted to provide for the reproductive health needs of Maryland women and families. 50 years of legal abortion never ended childhood poverty, rape and incest or unplanned pregnancies. In fact, the amount of abortions has increased proportionately to the increase in public funding for abortion.

The stated intent of the abortion industry is to increase abortion sales, particularly lethal chemical abortion sales, by expanding the number of health care workers who may perform or provide abortions, by redefining their **scope of practice** and incentivizing them with financial inducements at taxpayer expense. Reducing the credentials of those who may perform or provide abortions will increase the number of preborn children being killed and will put more women at risk of substandard medical care, injury and death.

Planned Parenthood kills nearly 400,000 unborn children in our nation every year. On average, they commit 1,076 abortions every day. That's nearly 45 every hour, or one every 80 seconds. In its 2024 annual report, the abortion giant boasted record-high abortion numbers and over \$2.9 billion in net assets. It receives \$700 million annually in taxpayer funding—roughly \$1.9 million per day—and its focus is not on providing health care but on promoting abortion. Since 2000, taxpayer funding has surged by 245 percent, while the number of abortions at Planned Parenthood have doubled—at the same time, cancer screenings and prenatal care have declined.

In the past decade (from 2012-2013 to 2022-2023), as annual taxpayer funding to Planned Parenthood rose over 29 percent, from \$540.6 million to nearly \$700 million, abortions conducted by Planned Parenthood also increased over 20 percent, from 327,166 to 392,715—the highest number of abortions ever reported by the corporation.

In addition, over the past 10 years, its profits ballooned from \$58.2 million to \$178.6 million—an increase of more than 200 percent.

Continuing to fund Planned Parenthood with tax dollars is not just fiscal irresponsibility—it is a human-rights catastrophe. Investigations have uncovered many instances of negligence in reporting rape and sexual abuse and complicity in aiding sex traffickers in the exploitation of young girls. This reveals a



pattern of failure to report the sexual abuse of minors, enabling predators to keep illegally exploiting vulnerable girls and perpetuating abortions.

Undercover footage has also exposed Planned Parenthood staff negotiating the sale of organs and body parts from aborted babies. Planned Parenthood has even been sued over allegations it engaged in Medicaid fraud.

To sustain its operations, Planned Parenthood's political arm, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, funnels millions of dollars into campaigns to elect candidates who pledge unwavering support for its agenda—promoting unrestricted abortion at every stage of pregnancy for any reason. In 2024 alone Planned Parenthood political affiliates invested tens of millions of dollars to defeat President Trump.

(SOURCE: <https://www.newsweek.com/700-million-question-why-are-taxpayers-still-funding-planned-parenthood-opinion-2032692>).

**Maryland is Failing Pregnant Women** – By prioritizing abortion violence over legitimate healthcare, the State of Maryland and Maryland Department of Health have 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.

The State of Maryland should redirect taxpayer funds away from abortion business to lifesaving alternatives to abortion, including legitimate family planning services, prenatal care providers, and affordable adoption options. This change would be a victory for taxpayers, ensuring government resources are being used to benefit the people, not a progressive political interest group.

### **Maryland Already Subsidizes Corporate Abortion**

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. Regardless of how one feels about the legality of abortion, there is longstanding bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 57% percent of those surveyed in a January 2025 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 67% of Americans in that same poll support legal limits on abortion, particularly after the first trimester.

Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program.

Programs that utilize public funding for abortion violence, 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 even the Maryland Department of Public Works.

The *Maryland Medical Assistance Program* and the *Maryland Children's Health Program* (MCHP) are the two primary programs used for publicly funded reimbursements to abortion providers in Maryland.

Medical Assistance Expenditures on Abortion Language attached to the Medicaid budget since 1979 authorizes the use of State funds to pay for abortions under specific circumstances. Specifically, a physician or surgeon must certify that, based on his or her professional opinion, the procedure is necessary. Similar language has been attached to the appropriation for **MCHP** since its advent in fiscal 1999. However, this provision is regularly abused by abortionists for reasons other than the medical necessity and include abortions for any reason including convenience.

According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their *Analysis of the FY2025 Maryland Executive Budget, 2024* Maryland taxpayers, through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, are being forced to pay for *elective* abortions. In 2023, we spent at least **\$7.9 million for 12,727 abortions, less than 11 of those abortions were due to rape, incest or to save the life of the mother (see attachment.)**



Governor Wes Moore increased the budget for Medicaid reimbursements to abortionists by **\$5 million** last year.

**An additional \$14.4 million with annual increases in public funding** was spent to train a substandard abortion workforce under the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022, which removed the statutory safeguard that only physicians can perform abortions.

**\$3.2 million** per year is used to bail out abortion providers who fail to qualify for federal Title X Family Planning federal funds because they refused to separate their abortion practices from their family planning services.

In 2023, Governor Moore took more than **\$1.1 million dollars** from the Maryland Board of Public Work budget to stockpile abortion drugs mifepristone and misoprostol.

Many more millions of dollars of state taxpayer funding are siphoned to the abortion industry in the way of departmental contracts, memoranda of understanding and grants.

**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.*”

**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 you to vote against any and all measures to allocate public funds for abortion or to compel private insurance companies to fund abortion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all human beings, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.**