



Opposition Statement HB19

Health Occupations – Nursing – Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension
(Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025)
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On behalf of our over 200,000 followers, Maryland Right to Life opposes HB19.

This bill expands the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program to beyond Nurses to include Nursing Support Staff (p. 4, lines 15 and 16). The bill allows the State Treasurer to hold the Fund separately (p. 4, lines 19 and 20). Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to prevent this bill from being used for abortion and abortion purposes. The bill allows the State to interfere with the independent operations of a Health Occupations Board for the education and licensing qualifications of its members. Maryland Right to Life opposes decreasing standards for health care occupations thereby lowering standards of care for patients which may lead to adverse outcomes.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry, especially workers that put the health of women and girls in jeopardy. The Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program must not be used to provide funding for the abortion industry. Abortion is an elective procedure. Nurses and Nursing Support Staff are needed for essential health care, not for elective options.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. Marist polls continue to show that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. In addition, Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mother and their children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

Put patients before profits. The State of Maryland needs to put patients before profits. Maryland Right to Life opposes introduction or passage of any bill that interferes with the independent operation of Health Occupations Boards to govern themselves and assure best medical practice. Maryland Right to Life opposes changes that further erode health care delivery. Scope or independence of practice typically describes the procedures, actions, and processes that a healthcare practitioner is permitted to undertake in keeping with the terms of their professional license.

The medical scarcity in abortion practice is a matter of medical ethics not provider scarcity, as 9 out of 10 OB/Gyn's refuse to commit abortions because they recognize the scientific fact that a human fetus is a living human being. The abortion industry's solution is three-fold: (1) authorize lower-skilled workers and non-physicians to perform abortion, and (2) authorize abortionists to remotely prescribe abortion pills across state lines.

The Abortion Care Access Act decreased safety standards for women and girls in Maryland with the removal of the physician requirement. This bill continues this erosion by removing English competency requirements be demonstrated for Maryland licensing if another state claims competency for the applicant (p. 9, lines 28-33). The bill also allows



acceptance of educational qualifications from other states to obtain a license. In addition to the comparison of programs is subjective, the bill does not consider the quality of the student's work in those programs. A demonstration of competency needs to remain for individuals to practice health care in Maryland.

An amendment is needed to prevent this bill being used for abortion and abortion services. Surgical and medical abortions carry a risk of injury up to and including death. Surgical abortions are invasive, and the woman or girl risks injuries including a punctured uterus, incomplete abortion, lacerations to the vagina and cervix, sepsis and death. The risks for a woman or girl taking the dangerous abortion pills include hemorrhage, sepsis, incomplete abortion, menstrual abnormalities, and death. The women and girls of Maryland are no longer assured of receiving the care of trained, licensed physicians for abortion services. And this bill lowers licensing standards for nurses which will have a negative impact on health care delivery.

The women and girls of Maryland deserve better. The taxpayers of Maryland deserve better, especially with a \$3 billion budget shortfall. **Without an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from this bill, Maryland Right to Life asks for an unfavorable report on HB19.**