



## **INFORMATIONAL STATEMENT**

**SB 674/HB 939**

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**On behalf of our Board of Directors and chapters across the state, we oppose the mislabeling of abortifacients as contraceptives and defend a woman’s right to informed consent before using any abortifacient.**

### **KNOWN HEALTH RISKS OF CONTRACEPTIVE DRUGS**

So-called contraceptive drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), include the minipill or “**Opill**” and emergency contraception pills also known as “morning after” pills and have known harmful side effects including death. The FDA requires drug manufacturers to disclose these side effects to users.

The Opill is newly approved by the FDA for over the counter (OTC) use. It contains norgestrel which is the synthetic form of progestin. The Opill is a 0.075mg pill taken once per day every day. The pill advertises that it can prevent ovulation, or thicken cervical mucus to prevent sperm from reaching the egg. The pill also is intended to thin the uterine lining to prevent implantation within the uterus of a newly created human being in his or her zygote stage of life, which results in an early termination of pregnancy otherwise known as an ABORTION.

Emergency contraception pills are taken as a one-dose pill after sex. The emergency contraception pill contains 1.5 mg norgestrel, which is 20 times the dose of the daily Opill taken all in one dose. It is important to note that if women or girls have access to these drugs without appropriate medical guidance, they could potentially overdose and experience serious health problems.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the health risks of contraceptive drugs include liver problems, ectopic pregnancy and severe allergic reaction. Ectopic pregnancy is a medical emergency that often requires surgery. Ectopic pregnancies can cause serious internal bleeding, infertility, and even death. The likelihood of those risks increases through frequent use, such as use after every sexual encounter or when combined use with high-doses of hormone as contained in emergency contraceptive drugs. There also are known contraindications with other drugs that can render contraceptives ineffective.

### **ABORTIFACIENTS MISLABELED AS “CONTRACEPTION”**

While Maryland Right to Life takes no position on family planning methods and devices that truly prevent conception of a new human life, we strongly oppose misinformation and taxpayer funding for abortifacients mislabeled as contraceptives. Abortifacients drugs and devices, do not prevent conception



or fertilization that results in the creation of a unique human life. Instead, abortifacients disrupt the continuation of human gestation, resulting in the death of the new human life.

Since 1827, we've had reasonable knowledge that human life begins when sperm and egg unite, creating a distinct, living individual. That was confirmed beyond reasonable doubt in 1876, when Oscar Hertwig observed the first union of sperm and egg in animals. Then in 1965, to influence people to accept "the pill," the American College of Gynecologists (ACOG) made a political decision—not a scientific one—to redefine conception. ([Exposing ACOG: How abortion and population control enthusiasts redefined the beginning of life](#)) ACOG's definition of when conception begins was not when the child's life actually begins, but when the already alive and growing child implants in the uterus. ACOG's opinion is scientifically incorrect, pretending nothing happens between fertilization and implantation. This twisting of scientific fact to fit political agendas has led to mass confusion on the topic and the shameless manipulation of women for profit.

Maryland law does not require sex education to be medically accurate nor age appropriate and it is neither. This is a result of intense lobbying by abortion-invested special interests like Planned Parenthood, which is one of the leading providers of sexuality education curriculum. Due to this intentional miseducation of our youth, many young women are made dependent on hormonal birth control without understanding the long term effects on their health. Contraceptive drugs are reported to cause various side effects, including increased risk of infertility, miscarriage and cancer. Women also experience psychological and emotional trauma when they learn that they were unknowingly using abortifacients, resulting in the premature deaths of multiple children throughout their childbearing years.

Maryland Right to Life defends the right to know of every woman, to be provided the scientific facts that many contraceptive methods endanger a woman's health and induce an early abortion, rather than prevent conception in order to give truly informed consent before utilizing these abortifacients.

Maryland Right to Life will advocate for the right of conscience of any individual, organization or institution to refuse to use, pay for or administer any contraceptive methods that may have an abortifacient effect. The State of Maryland's forced taxation for the purposes of abortion and abortifacients is unconstitutional and inhumane.

**For these reasons, we urge you to support women's right to informed consent and oppose any policy that mislabels abortifacients as contraceptives.**