



### **UNFAVORABLE STATEMENT**

#### **HB1059 – HEALTH Fund and Income Tax Checkoff**

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On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we object to the appropriation and use of any public funds for the purposes of abortion violence, especially funding of any abortion business or organization that does not qualify for federal funding due to their commission of abortion. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to pick up the tab for abortion businesses that refuse to separate their abortion practices from their family planning services, and therefore render themselves ineligible for federal Family Planning Program or other federal funding.

This bill could extend and increase public funding and other funds, to abortion businesses that are ineligible to receive federal funding including federal Title X Family Planning funds, because they refuse to separate their abortion practices from their family planning services. Other funding that may be involved could include any organization that is exempted in participation with federal Title IX funding that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. That could encompass funding for compulsory accommodation for abortion programs, coordination and abortion drug distribution in educational institutions.

Any state family planning funds given to abortion businesses, will ultimately subsidize abortion practices. The tens of millions of dollars in state taxpayer funding abortion giant Planned Parenthood receives each year are fungible, acting to free up other dollars which would normally be used for salaries, facility rent, and general overhead. Planned Parenthood nets millions of dollars in excess revenue almost every year.

This bill would divert public funding from legitimate reproductive health, family planning, and prenatal care services and providers to further subsidize the abortion industry, having a detrimental effect on women and children. For this reason we urge your unfavorable report.

#### **Federal Title X Prohibits Funding For Abortion**

Congress enacted the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-572), which added Title X, "Population Research and Voluntary Family Planning Programs" to the Public Health Service Act. Section 1001 of the Act (as amended) authorizes grants "to assist in the establishment and operation of voluntary family planning projects which shall provide a broad range of acceptable and effective medically approved methods (including natural family planning methods) and services (including infertility services and services for adolescents)."

Under Section 1008 1 [300a-6] of the Title X regulations, none of the funds appropriated under Title X shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.



However, the abortion industry's political power has enabled Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses to increase their revenue through Title X grants. This is despite Planned Parenthood's long, evidenced history of harming women and girls at their centers as well as several scandals concerning minors, breaking state and federal laws, the trafficking of fetal tissue from aborted babies, and more.

### **No Public Bail Out for Planned Parenthood**

82% 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.

But in 2019 (HB1272) the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Planned Parenthood Bail-Out" bill to force Maryland taxpayers to provide an additional \$3.2 million in escalating annual compensation to abortion providers that refused to comply with federal Title X funding requirements. These providers failed to qualify for federal funding when they refused to physically separate their abortion operations from their family planning services. To make a political statement, the Maryland General Assembly refused almost all Family Planning Program dollars and transferred the burden to state taxpayers.

In 2019, when President Donald J. Trump restored the original purposes of the federal Title X program, abortion centers and entities that refer for abortions, including Planned Parenthood, chose to forego Title X funding rather than separate Title X projects from their abortion businesses. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 411 Planned Parenthood sites and 869 other Title X sites left the program between June 2019 and August 2021, mostly in states with laws that promote abortion, like Maryland. However, during that same time, 2,730 Title X sites chose patient care over abortion promotion and remained in the Title X network. Further, new grantees that were willing to comply with the mission of Title X were able to join. (Source: <https://lozierinstitute.org/the-protect-life-rule-defunding-abortion-in-title-x/>).

### **Abortion is Not Family Planning**

Planned Parenthood does not plan parenthood – but ends parenthood. Killing family members is not a legitimate method of family planning- and this is why Title X regulations have required abortion practices to be separate from federally funded Title X facilities. 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 multi-billion dollar abortion industry profits from unplanned pregnancy, cheap contraceptives that fail and the sale of abortions and has demonstrated that they cannot be trusted with the reproductive health and safety of women and girls in Maryland. 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>).

### **Voters Oppose Public Funding for 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.

### **Improve the Quality of Reproductive Care for Women**

The State of Maryland should redirect taxpayer funds to legitimate providers of family planning and prenatal care services, including federally qualifying health centers and medical pregnancy resource centers that provide services to women at little to no cost. These centers provide comprehensive care, from cancer screenings to prenatal and postpartum services, without destroying human life. This change would be a victory for taxpayers, ensuring government resources are being used to benefit the people, not a progressive political interest group.

The practice of abortion in America has become the “**red light district**” of medicine, populated by dangerous, substandard providers. With the proliferation of chemical abortion pills, the abortion industry itself has exposed women to “back alley” style abortions, where they bleed alone without medical supervision or assistance.

**MDH is Failing Pregnant Women** - 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 education 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.

**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 to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. Maryland Family Planning Program funds should be used for those providers who provide legitimate reproductive health services, not those who simply kill "unwanted" children.**

**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.**