

Favorable with Amendment

House Bill 834 - Public Health – Federal and State Funding for Abortions – Prohibition and Exceptions

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On behalf of our members across the state, we support House Bill 834 *with amendment*. HB 834 is common sense legislation that prioritizes the state's interest in the value of human life and restores to the people, the natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.

There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. State funding for abortion on demand is in direct conflict with the will of the people. In fact, 58% percent of those surveyed say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, including 31% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 65% of independents. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children.

Pregnancy is not a Disease - Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that systemically targets the poor and vulnerable and ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey do not commit abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare.

Abortion is *never medically necessary* to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to *sustain the lives of both*. This is different from an abortion, which involves the *purposeful termination of fetal human life*. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that *both lives can be saved*.

Love them both - 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. We believe each human being is created EQUAL and the circumstances of conception do not diminish the worth of a human child. While rape and incest are despicable crimes that must be prosecuted, in no other crime do we transfer blame and punishment to an innocent third party. Children should not be condemned to death for the crimes of others. Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother 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.

Funding restrictions are constitutional - The Supreme Court has held that the alleged constitutional "right" to an abortion "*implies 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.*" When a challenge to the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment reached the Supreme Court in 1980 in the case of *Harris v. McRae*, 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 affirmed that *Roe v. Wade* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB834 with the attached amendment. We thank you for your consideration for the equal value of each human being, born and preborn.

PART V. FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING.

20-217.

~~(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, NO FEDERAL OR STATE FUNDS MAY BE USED TO PAY FOR AN ABORTION PROCEDURE OR HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE THAT INCLUDES COVERAGE OF ABORTION PROCEDURES.~~

~~(B) THE PROHIBITION IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IF: (1) THE WOMAN'S PREGNANCY IS THE RESULT OF AN ACT OF RAPE OR INCEST; OR (2) THE WOMAN HAS A LIFE-ENDANGERING PHYSICAL CONDITION CAUSED BY OR ARISING FROM THE PREGNANCY ITSELF THAT WOULD, AS CERTIFIED BY A PHYSICIAN, PLACE THE WOMAN IN DANGER OF DEATH UNLESS AN ABORTION IS PERFORMED.~~