



**Opposition Statement SB172/HB463
Maryland Health Equity Resource Act**

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We Oppose SB172/HB463 as Written

On behalf of our members in Baltimore City and across the state, we respectfully object to SB172/HB463 *as written*. We champion the cause of racial equity and the truth that each human being is created equal and with the inalienable RIGHT TO LIFE. Abortion is the greatest civil rights abuse of our time. Minority women and children have been historically targeted for abortion and population control with a genocidal effect. **Without your amendment, this bill could be exploited to expand abortion among Minority populations and require public funding of the abortion industry to the detriment of Black lives.**

LIFE is a Civil Right

Abortion is having a genocidal effect on Black Americans, who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry, with 78% of abortion clinics located in Black and Brown communities and with almost half of all pregnancies to Black women ending in abortion. While Black Americans make up less than 13% of the population, they account for more than 30% of all abortions. **As a result abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than gun violence and all other causes combined.** (For more information see <http://www.BlackGenocide.org>.)

Pregnancy is not a Disease

Abortion is not healthcare. It is brutality that furthers a culture of violence in society. Abortion in America is an epidemic. Since the Supreme Court overturned the laws of 46 states when it legalized abortion in 1973, more than 61 million children have been killed through abortion, over 20 million of those abortions were of Black babies. Abortion in America remains unsafe, with many women experiencing medical complications, including severe infection, loss of fertility and even death. Many women suffer long-term psychological harm identified as Post-Abortion Syndrome. Women have better options for comprehensive care. There are 14 federally qualifying health care centers for every Planned Parenthood in Maryland. **Women deserve better than abortion.**

Funding restrictions are constitutional

The Supreme Court in the case of *Harris v. McRae* (1980), 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. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions performed in Maryland. A 2019 Marist poll showed that 54% of Americans, both "pro-life" and "pro-choice" oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion. 83% of Americans polled instead favor laws that **protect both the lives of women and preborn children**. To become a just society, public funds 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.

For these reasons, we urge you to protect the fundamental Right to Life for all Marylanders and especially in any programs to advance *racial equity*, by excluding abortion funding or issuing an unfavorable report.