



## Informational Statement

### HB533 - State Government –Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity and the Commission on Genocide Prevention

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**On behalf of our members across the state, we champion the universal truth that each human being is created equal and with the inalienable RIGHT TO LIFE.** Abortion is the greatest crime against humanity. Nearly half of the world's population has been exterminated through the injustice of abortion. Women and Children of Color have been historically targeted for abortion and population control through forced sterilization and abortion with a genocidal effect. This bill speaks of "forced pregnancy" but does not prohibit "forced abortion", which is a devastating reality for many women including ethnic and religious minorities in many parts of the world.

**Without your amendment, this bill could be exploited to expand abortion among People of Color worldwide and require public funding of institutionalized genocide.**

**NO OVERSEAS ABORTION - The aggressive agenda of the American abortion industry to import abortion on demand to women of foreign nations is another form of colonization, which violates cultural traditions and norms.** We support the Mexico City Policy that required non-governmental organizations to agree, as a condition of receiving federal funding, that they "would neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations". A similar policy should be enacted in Maryland to protect human life. A January 2021 Marist Poll found 77% of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer funds for abortions overseas, an uptick of two percentage points from the 75 percent who responded similarly in the last two annual polls. Of those who oppose taxpayer funding of abortions abroad, 55 percent are Democrats, 95 percent are Republicans, and 85 percent are independents.

**LIFE is our first Civil Right -** Abortion is having a genocidal effect specifically on Black Americans, who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry, with almost half of all pregnancies to Black women ending in abortion. Even today more than 78% of abortion clinics are located in Communities of Color. The government invests more in the corner abortion clinic than the corner grocery store. 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>.) **We must not export systemic genocide.**

#### **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 62 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. While state data reports that maternal mortality rates are dramatically higher among Black women, they fail to report that abortion increases the risk of complications in future pregnancies. Women deserve better options for comprehensive care.

**For these reasons, we urge you to protect the fundamental Right to Life for all of humanity, and to reject any policy or program that requires participation in or funding of abortion through domestic or international contracts and agreements. Thank you.**