



## **Unfavorable Statement – HB396/SB279**

### **Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program**

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**On behalf of our members across the state, we strongly oppose HB396/SB279 because it forces Maryland taxpayers to promote and subsidize abortion and deprives the people, the natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to provide access and referrals to “reproductive health” education and services, which will include abortion.**

**Pregnancy is not a Disease** - Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that systemically targets the poor and minority populations 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*.

### **LIFE is our first Civil Right**

Abortion is the greatest civil rights abuse of our time and this bill forces the people to fund abortion to the detriment of Black lives. Legal abortion is having a genocidal effect specifically on Black Americans, who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry, with half of all pregnancies to Black women ending in abortion. Planned Parenthood was founded by racist eugenicists who believed that forced sterilization and later abortion, were necessary tools to reduce the growth in “unfit” populations, particularly those persons of African descent. Even today more than 78% of abortion clinics are located in Communities of Color. The government interest in health care is highly questionable as the state 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 nearly 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>.)

**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. 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.

**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.

**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 against SB279/HB396. We thank you for your consideration for the equal value of each human being, born and preborn.**