

Pamela Palumbo  
91 Scotts Cove Road  
Edgewater, MD 21037

As President of the Maryland Coalition of Medical Pregnancy Clinics, we stand in opposition to SB 438, Pregnant and Parenting Student Policies. The Coalition represents 30 different Pregnancy Medical Clinics in 13 different counties across the state of Maryland and our primary work is to care for pregnant teens and adult women, as well as parenting teens and adults.

Over the past decade great improvements have been made to support pregnant and parenting teens and do not feel this bills actually provides for specific needs but is instead is being used as a vehicle by those organizations who want to get more access to teens, and 'establish policy.'

The only actual physical example of need used, is establishment for a room for pumping for breastfeeding teens, yet there is no proof this is not already available for use in the actual health rooms that are the provided spaces where the currant School Health Nurses occupy.

In fact at a time when teachers and school systems are overloaded in dealing with Covid issues related to reopening schools, this does not even identify specific school systems that need improving, rather is a generalization across the board for the entire state. All this when in fact, in Maryland, the teen birth rate declined 74% between 1991-2018

On the National Abortion Right Action League's own website, they have a hand out about this legislation and give NO statistics on specific needs, rather a vague stat that 'Pregnancy and Parenting Students graduated high school at a 'lower rate' than cohorts. That is absolutely not considerable enough to warrant or support state wide policy enactment, and all the related costs as they do not even site the percentage difference, only that it is 'lower'.

NARAL statistic of 2645 births to teens in Maryland in 2018, is annotated to have come from "Power to Decide: The Campaign to End Unplanned Pregnancy". This is not to HELP Pregnant or Parenting Teens, but to END Unplanned Pregnancies, by getting further into the school system to write and enact policy. Power to Decide citations on Teen Pregnancy, come directly from Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood.

This is a fully closed circle as the Guttmacher Institute is the research arm of Planned Parenthood and in this case, instead of citing their own research they are attempting to avoid the true appearance of their own financially vested interest in this bill by instead quoting "Power to Decide".

If there are been true instances recorded by school districts of issues and complaints from Pregnant and Parenting Teens, those absolutely need to be addressed. However, that should be done school districts by school district, not a broad swipe at the entire state when it is common knowledge that all school districts do NOT have the same issues and needs for every student.

The Maryland Coalition of Medical Pregnancy Clinics requests an unfavorable vote on SB 438

Sincerely,

Pamela Palumbo CEO Pregnancy Clinics of Annapolis, Bowie Crofton and Severna Park  
President, Maryland Coalition of Medical Pregnancy Clinics

pamela@pregnancyclinic.org