



UNFAVORABLE

SB761 – Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers

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On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, I object to this bill to the extent that it will increase taxpayer funding for abortion providers in the form of wage increases for workers through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (M00Q01.03).

Abortion is big business in Maryland and 60% of Democrat lawmakers were endorsed by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). We urge the Governor of Maryland and the Maryland General Assembly to immediately cease funding the American genocide called ABORTION and to cease the infringement on the people's free exercise of religion and rights of conscience to not fund abortion.

MEDICAID FUNDING FOR ABORTION - The *Maryland Medical Assistance Program* and the *Maryland Children's Health Program* (MCHP) are the two primary programs used for publicly funded reimbursements to abortion providers in Maryland. According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their *Analysis of the FY2022 Maryland Executive Budget*, Maryland taxpayers, through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (M00Q01.03), are being forced to pay for elective abortions. We spent at least \$6.5 million for 9,864 abortions, which were not due to rape, incest or life of the mother.

SUBSIDIZING CORPORATE ABORTION - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. However there is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 54% percent of those surveyed in a January 2022 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers 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.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTH CARE - The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Abortion is never medically necessary. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion often causes physical and

psychological injury to women. Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion is the leading cause of death among Black Americans and has become American genocide. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of all time.

Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

MDH IS FAILING PREGNANT WOMEN - The Maryland Department of Health has repeatedly failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department complies with existing state laws and regulations related to abortion providers.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations for abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions last year.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.
- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and education providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists and failing to regulate abortion practices.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against any and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.