



**Favorable  
HB 1321  
Health-Abortions-Reporting Requirement**  
Laura Bogley, JD  
Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Maryland Right to Life, I offer my support of House Bill 1321 and urge your favorable report. Maryland is one of only 3 states that shields abortionists by refusing to report abortion data to the CDC. However, Maryland should at minimum, collect important statistical information on maternal and fetal and infant health in order to better provider for the legitimate health needs of women and children.

This bill is a common sense bill to collect data on the incidence of gastroschisis in fetal human beings and any correlation between this diagnosis and abortion. This data is necessary for the state to address rates of misdiagnosis and the availability of medical alternatives to abortion in cases of fetal gastroschisis.

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.

Abortion kills, not cures any disease. 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 and poses risks to women's physical and emotional health as well as to the health of future pregnancies. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care. For each Planned Parenthood in Maryland, there are 14 federally qualifying health centers and 4 pro-life pregnancy centers providing FREE services for women. The Maryland Department of Health must give women real CHOICE and protect women from abortion coercion, by providing information about and referrals to lifesaving alternatives to abortion.

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on this bill. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and prioritize taxpayer funding to restore to all people, born and preborn, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion. Thank you for your consideration.**