



Opposition Statement HB354

Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment

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Maryland Right to Life

Without an amendment, we oppose HB354.

On behalf of our over 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to HB354. While providing support for certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses is a positive in general, we oppose the program being used to recruit participants and train them for the abortion industry workforce. We oppose any funds from this bill being used to fund the training of participants for the abortion industry. We oppose this committee being used for the purpose of promoting the abortion industry through this program. Maryland Right to Life strongly recommends an amendment added with language that would exclude abortion funding and exclude recruitment of participants for the abortion workforce.

In addition to the use of this bill for funding and promotion the abortion industry, Maryland Right to Life opposes the further erosion of medical for the women and girls of Maryland. Surgical and medical abortions carry a risk of injury up to and including death. Surgical abortions are invasive and the woman or girl risks injuries including a punctured uterus, incomplete abortion, lacerations to the vagina and cervix, sepsis, and death. The risks for a woman or girl taking the abortion pill include hemorrhage, sepsis, incomplete abortion, menstrual abnormalities and death. The women and girls of Maryland deserve the care of trained, licensed physicians. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed the physician requirement thus removing one level of safety, and this bill allows for further erosion of quality of medical care for women and girls in Maryland. Medical scarcity in abortion services is a matter of medical ethics, not provider scarcity. Medical scarcity is not justification for lowering standards of medical practice.

Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion. Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry, especially workers that put the health of women and girls in jeopardy. The state of Maryland must not continue to sponsor the abortion industry in its taxpayer funded programs.

Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. Year after year, Marist polls show that 60% of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. In addition, 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

While this program might be good for bringing more individuals into the field of nursing, Maryland Right to Life asks for an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from this bill. Lets not turn this reimagined workforce development into a pipeline of workers for the abortion industry. Without an amendment, we ask for an unfavorable report on HB354.

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