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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7
BALTIMORE AND HARFORD COUNTIES

2023 Maryland Legislative Session's Effects on the Pro-Life Community

Maryland's laws allow abortion for all nine months of pregnancy. For the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, there are no restrictions for abortion. For the last 16 weeks of pregnancy, the minimal restriction requires a medical provider performing the abortion to verify that the pregnant woman would suffer "mental distress" should she carry the baby to term. The medical provider who is paid to perform the abortion is the one who can assess the mental health distress; yet, is not required to prescribe treatment or help for the pregnant woman.

Maryland taxpayers also fund abortion for all nine months. There is a clinic in Montgomery County that performs late-term abortions, and many hospitals, including Johns Hopkins, perform late-term abortions. There is a new abortion clinic opening up in Cumberland, reportedly so that women from other states outside of Maryland can be taken there for virtually unrestricted abortions.

The 2023 Maryland General Assembly session sadly resulted in the passage of a package of bills that will further expand abortion access in Maryland. These new laws were passed by the pro-abortion supermajority in both chambers of the General Assembly and then signed by Governor Wes Moore into law, further solidifying Maryland's place as one of the most abortion-friendly states in America.

The legislature passed a bill requiring public colleges and universities to make a "reproductive health services plan" for students, which includes offering abortion or establishing a network of local providers to send students for abortions. Sadly, there are no provisions in this [law](#) to offer services to students who choose life, like providing prenatal care services. We offered an amendment to include services for women wanting to keep their babies, which failed largely along Party lines. The law prioritizes abortion over life—making academic institutions a haven for abortion and unfriendly to women who choose life.

Another bill was enacted to protect abortion providers and those who assist in interstate human trafficking for the purpose of abortion. The [law](#) prevents interstate cooperation in criminal investigations and prevents the discovery of patient medical histories related to abortion. Despite best efforts to defeat these bills, Democrat lawmakers have established Maryland as a regional late-term abortion tourism destination.

Most notably, a bill was passed to create a State Constitutional Right to "Reproductive Freedom." This question will be posed to voters in the 2024 election. This [abortion amendment](#) would coerce taxpayers into funding abortion-on-demand, deregulate experimentation and the destruction of human embryos, invalidate all existing health and safety statutes and regulations regarding abortion, target pro-life organizations and healthcare providers for litigation and prosecution, and bar any future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial-birth abortion bans or dismemberment bans.

Gov. Moore proudly highlighted that on his first day in office, he released \$3.5 million in funding allowing **non-physicians** to perform abortions, and the Moore administration stockpiled two-and-a-half-years' worth of mifepristone, a drug used to induce abortions after recent federal cases put the future of the drug's use in jeopardy. Maryland is poised to become a mecca for the human trafficking of minors forced to have an abortion without parental consent. Maryland is one of only three states that does not report any abortion data to the CDC. This is radical and not safe for women.

The abortion of full-term healthy babies whose mothers are feeling mental duress is legal and paid for by taxpayers. Whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, it is clear that Maryland has some of the most radical abortion laws in America and the Western world.