



# Maryland Abortion Amendment

## *Defeating a State “Constitutional Right” to Abortion*

Planned Parenthood is on the defensive following recent investigations and litigation that revealed that they engage in unethical and illegal practices that put profits before the health of women and children. In an attempt to defend their actions and protect their public funding, NARAL and Planned Parenthood have lobbied the Maryland General Assembly to amend the Constitution of Maryland to create a “constitutional right to *privacy*” – enshrining abortion-on-demand, through birth and with guaranteed public funding. An abortion amendment would invalidate all existing health and safety statutes and regulations regarding abortion and bar any future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial birth abortion or dismemberment bans. *Here are some important reasons to oppose Senate Bill 664.*

- **The Constitution of the United States is silent on abortion but clear on the right to Life.** The Constitution affirms that no one can “be deprived of life, liberty or property” and deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence’s proclamation that “all” are “endowed by their Creator” with the unalienable right to Life. The Constitution of Maryland does not secure or protect a right to “privacy” or abortion nor does it require the funding of abortion, but instead defers to the Constitution of the United States as controlling law.
- ***Roe v. Wade* is not settled law, but one of the most highly contested cases of judicial activism.** Before *Roe*, 46 states had enacted laws prohibiting abortion. On the request of the abortion industry, seven of the nine *Roe* Supreme Court Justices fabricated a “right to privacy”, to allow abortion to be funded as a means of eugenics and population control. Since *Roe*, states have enacted 1,142 abortion restrictions. If *Roe* is overturned, abortion will remain legal under the Maryland Freedom of Choice Act.
- **The abortion amendment would silence the voices of everyday Marylanders who want to engage in a meaningful public discussion and debate over the availability, safety, and even desirability of abortion.** The vast majority (76%) of Americans support reasonable restrictions on abortion, especially in the third trimester (6-9 months). 78% would prefer policies to protect both the mother and the child. 60 to 70 percent of voters, whether pro-life or pro-choice, oppose use of our tax dollars to fund abortion.
- **The abortion amendment would invalidate state abortion-related laws that are supported by the majority of the public,** including the following common sense, protective laws: partial-birth abortion bans; infanticide bans; human cloning bans; sex trafficking reporting requirements; bans on selective abortion based on race, gender or disability; parental notification; informed consent; wrongful death laws that protect unborn children; religious freedom and rights of conscience laws that protect healthcare workers and employers; clinic safety regulations; and public funding restrictions.
- **Maryland’s abortion laws already are the 5<sup>th</sup> most extreme in the nation,** permitting abortion on demand at any time during a woman’s nine-months of pregnancy. Maryland was one of the first states to enact a Freedom of Choice Act (1991), expanding abortion beyond the scope of what was permissible under *Roe*.
- While Maryland is one of three states that does not require abortion facilities to report the number and causes of abortions that they commit each year, **it is estimated that nearly 30,000 human beings die from abortion annually in Maryland. 1/3 of those abortions are publicly funded.**