



WHY WE OPPOSE THE RADICAL ABORTION EXPANSION BILL

HB1599/SB1114, "AN ACT ENHANCING ACCESS TO ABORTION CARE"

This bill would eliminate nearly all restrictions on abortion in Massachusetts, would make abortion more dangerous for women, would allow girls of any age to obtain abortions without parental consent, and more. Here is what the bill would do:

Undermine Parental Rights

- Allow girls of *any age* to "consent" to an abortion without parental knowledge and would eliminate the "judicial bypass" that formerly required a judge to sign off on an abortion that was done without parental consent. Current law requires parental consent or a judge's permission for abortions when the pregnant girl is under 16 years of age. 16 is also the legal age of consent for *sexual activity* in MA, which means this new provision would **specifically remove protections for victims of statutory rape**, making it exponentially easier for sex traffickers and child rapists to hide their crimes by forcing their victims to obtain abortions.
- Require school-based health centers to keep information or treatment related to minor students' abortions confidential from parents.
- Allow minors to consent to preventative "care" (without parental knowledge) if they believe they are at risk of contracting a "disease dangerous to the public health," which includes everything from the flu, to COVID, to STDs. This means that a child would be able to consent to the COVID vaccine, HPV vaccine, or other treatments without parental knowledge or consent.

Eliminate Conscientious Objections to Performing Abortions

- Prohibit doctors and nurses from claiming conscientious objections to providing abortions when an abortion would be "required to preserve the life of the mother." However, the truth is that intentionally killing a baby

inside the womb is never necessary to save the life of its mother. This provision creates a risk that hospitals would force doctors and nurses to violate their consciences by performing abortions when they are not truly necessary to save a mother's life.

Eliminate Safety Regulations for Dangerous Late-Term Abortions

- Allow *any* medical professional acting within their scope of practice to perform abortions after 24 weeks. Current Massachusetts law allows only doctors to approve and perform such late-term abortions.
- Eliminate the requirement that facilities performing late-term abortions maintain life-saving equipment to save babies born alive or help women harmed by the dangerous procedures.

Target Pregnancy Resource Centers

- Prohibit PRCs from providing counseling or information that the Attorney General deems "medically inaccurate, medically unnecessary, or misleading," without defining what these terms mean. This would open PRCs up to liability simply for opposing abortion.
- Require the Department of Public Health to run a smear campaign against PRCs and promote abortion clinics as an alternative.

In sum, this bill would push Massachusetts down the path toward having the most permissive, far reaching abortion laws in the country. Please contact your senator and representative to tell them you oppose this radical bill.

Visit mafamilly.org/takeaction to learn how to oppose this bill.