

# Protect Women's Health

## OPPOSE Medicaid Funding Restriction Budget Item 4-5.04#3h Delegate R. Marshall

**Budget Item 4-5.04#3h**, in House Bill 30 would further restrict Medicaid funding for abortion care to circumstances when the woman's life is at risk, or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. It prohibits funding for women who have serious health risks or a non-viable pregnancy.

Currently, Virginia permits Medicaid coverage of abortions for these reasons, as required by federal law:

- Rape
- Incest
- life of woman

Additionally, Virginia allows Medicaid coverage of abortions for two circumstances beyond federal law:

- Substantial endangerment to the health of the woman
- Severe, incapacitating fetal abnormality.

**This budget amendment would prevent the most vulnerable women in Virginia from accessing medically-necessary abortion care.**

- Medicaid would still have to treat the serious health problem that resulted from not having access to abortion care.
- Situations of severe, incapacitating fetal abnormality are tragic. The decision to terminate a non-viable pregnancy should be left to a woman, in consultation with her family and physician.

### Examples of conditions that can lead to health risks

There are many physical conditions that can be caused or worsened by pregnancy, and continuing a pregnancy during a disease in severe stages can potentially threaten a woman's life. When faced with these conditions, the risk of continuing a pregnancy should be addressed on an individual case basis by a woman and her treating physicians. The following are just a few examples of conditions that can substantially endanger a woman's health while pregnant:

- High blood pressure (eclampsia)
- Heart Disease
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Epilepsy

### Examples of conditions that can lead to a non-viable pregnancy (lethal fetal conditions)

- Anencephaly
- Intrauterine fetal demise
- Fatal cardiac malformation
- Bilateral renal agenesis
- Tracheal agenesis
- Lethal skeletal dysplasia
- Lethal pulmonary hypoplasia
- Lethal multiple pterygium syndrome
- Corpus callosum agenesis

### **Virginia Pro-Choice Coalition**

American Association of University Women of Virginia ♦ American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia ♦ League of Women Voters of Virginia ♦ NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia ♦ National Association of Social Workers – Virginia ♦ National Organization for Women – Virginia ♦ Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia ♦ Population Connection ♦ Republican Majority for Choice ♦ Virginia Women's Attorney Association ♦ Virginia Young Democrats ♦ Women's National Democratic Club

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