

“There is a very significant difference between a right to decide to terminate a pregnancy by abortion ... and a right to compel the state to pay for the abortion.”

–Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Mary Jeanne Coyne [dissenting in *Doe v. Gomez*]

End taxpayer funding of abortion

The Minnesota Legislature has repeatedly passed a bill to challenge the *Doe v. Gomez* decision by banning taxpayer funding of elective abortion. Unfortunately, the governor has vetoed the measure.

You can help stop abortion funding in Minnesota:

- **Sign the petition to ban taxpayer funding of abortion at mccl.org/petition.**
- Share this brochure (also available at mccl.org) with others to spread awareness and grow public support for a ban.
- Contact the governor and your lawmakers during the next legislative session to urge their support.

Together, we can finally enact this crucial effort to protect unborn children, their mothers, and Minnesota taxpayers.



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life
4249 Nicollet Ave. | Minneapolis MN 55409
612.825.6831 | mccl@mccl.org

The mission of MCCL is to secure protection for innocent human life from conception until natural death through effective education, legislation, and political action.

www.mccl.org

Copyright © 2017 MCCL

TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION IN MINNESOTA

Why this growing practice harms women, children, and taxpayers



MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Most people—including many who support legalized abortion—don't think the government should pay for abortion. A 2017 Marist poll found that more than 60 percent of Americans oppose public funding of abortion; only 35 percent support it. Yet Minnesota taxpayers have subsidized elective abortions for more than two decades. And the problem is getting worse year after year.

Abortion funding in Minnesota

Minnesota enacted a law in 1978 to prevent public funding of abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment. In 1994, however, a Hennepin County District Court judge decided that the state Constitution requires Medicaid coverage of abortion. The Minnesota Supreme Court upheld the ruling in its 1995 *Doe v. Gomez* decision.

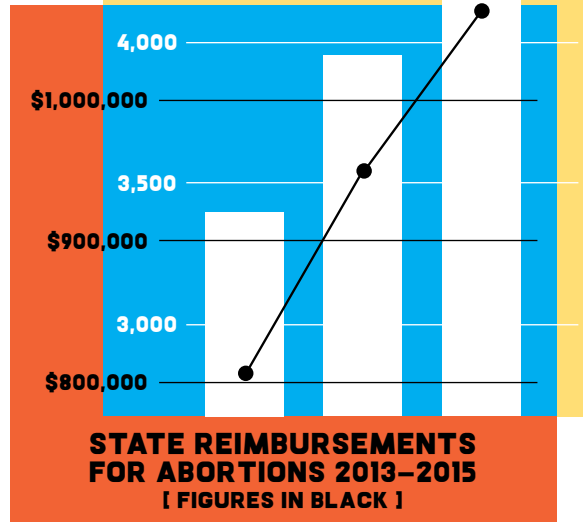
As a result, the state currently funds elective abortions for women on Minnesota's Medicaid program, Medical Assistance. (Although the Court spoke only of therapeutic abortion, "therapeutic" reasons for abortion have been understood to include *any* reasons.)

In 2015, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, taxpayers reimbursed abortion practitioners \$1.05 million for 4,218 abortions. That's the largest annual number of tax-funded abortions ever. And these abortions now make up a record-high 42.8 percent of all abortions in the state. Since the court mandate (through 2015), taxpayers have paid more than \$23.5 million for a total of 77,389 abortion procedure claims.

Why the state shouldn't fund abortion

Elective abortion does not serve the public good (like law enforcement, roads and bridges, and education). It is not "health care"—on the contrary, it attacks the health and ends the life of a developing human being. That's why abortion "is inherently different from other medical procedures," as the U.S. Supreme Court acknowledged in a case (*Harris v. McRae*) upholding limits on public funding. Abortion does not deserve positive government support.

2013–2015 TAXPAYER FUNDED ABORTIONS IN MINNESOTA [FIGURES IN WHITE]



Here's how Minnesota's abortion funding policy harms unborn children, pregnant women, and taxpayers.

Unborn children: Most people wish there were fewer abortions. But a wealth of research shows that public funding of abortion increases the number of abortions (relative to what it would otherwise be). More unborn children are killed when the government finances their deaths.



Pregnant women: Taxpayer funding of abortion enables the abortion industry to market "free" abortions to low-income women. This offers abortion practitioners a dependable revenue stream despite an overall trend of declining abortions in Minnesota. That's why the share of abortions funded by the state continues to grow substantially (see graph at right). But abortion isn't an answer to poverty. Women who face difficult circumstances deserve real solutions.



Taxpayers: According to a 2016 Rasmussen Reports survey, 50 percent of Americans identify abortion as generally "morally wrong"; only 34 percent say abortion is "morally acceptable." Pro-life Minnesotans should not be required to subsidize other people's abortions. "[R]espect for the consciences of those who believe abortion is immoral," wrote Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Mary Jeanne Coyne (who dissented in *Doe v. Gomez*), "should count as a legitimate basis ... to decide not to devote coerced tax dollars to that use."



Taxpayer funding of abortion, then, is an injustice to the unborn children who are killed using government money. It is an injustice to the women who deserve better than to have their circumstances exploited by the abortion industry. And it is an injustice to the taxpayers who are forced to be part of it.

TAXPAYER FUNDED ABORTIONS AS PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL TOTAL

