



# West Virginia Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) funding.

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# HB 2002 (2023)

- Established the " West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program."
- Will fund "Pregnancy Help Organizations"
  - Pregnancy centers
  - Maternity Home
  - Adoption agencies
  - Social services agencies that provide material support and other assistance to individuals facing an unintended pregnancy with the intent to help those individuals give birth to their unborn child
  - Pregnancy help organizations do not perform, prescribe, refer for or encourage abortion, as defined above, nor do they affiliate with any organization that performs, prescribes, refers for, or encourages abortion.
- Money will be released to the WV dept. of HHS
- \$1,000,000 will be released to a management agency (bidding process) around early June.
- More rules will be adopted
- High standards written within the bill.

# How will this work in practice?

- ▶ What will HB 2002 fund?
  - ▶ Depending on Rules
- ▶ What will it NOT fund?
  - ▶ Abortion services, Gospel presentations, prayer, religious instruction, BUT bifurcation allowed.
- ▶ Management agency (MA) will publicize the availability of the grant and application process
  - ▶ MA will establish standards and reporting procedures.
- ▶ MA will issue grant awards and provide training on how to report under the MA procedures.
- ▶ Annual Process

# Nationwide Outlook

- ▶ 16 states authorize some form of A2A funding ( as of March 2023)
  - ▶ Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.
  - ▶ WV soon
  - ▶ TN anticipated
  - ▶ Increases- FL, IN, KS, LA, MN, NC, ND, OH, TX!
  - ▶ About 25% of centers take some form of government funding or government facilitated funding
- ▶ Helps pro-life states show that they care about **Mom** and Baby.
- ▶ States have this money and they will spend it somewhere-can you think of a better cause?
- ▶ Supports a pro-life safety-net.

But...I have concerns



Of course, you do!



Let's address those.

# Main Concerns

1. We don't want government funding impacting our ability to share the Gospel.
2. Government funding might subject the center to increased regulation from the government.
3. We don't want to deal with the administrative burden of accepting government funding.
4. Government funding might subject the center to increased attack from the pro-abortion movement.
5. We want to advertise to donors and the public that the center "accepts no government funding."
6. We believe Christian ministries should not become entangled with the government.
7. We all have the funding we need to accomplish our mission and serve our community.
8. We believe that pro-life groups accepting government funding will make it harder to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.
9. We believe non-profits generally should not become entangled with the government.
10. No funding available for state, don't know how to apply, or applied but was rejected

# We don't want government funding impacting our ability to share the Gospel.

- ▶ Religious organizations ARE permitted to accept government funding.
  - ▶ Can serve churches, youth groups, religious clients/organizations
  - ▶ Cannot use the funding for religious **worship, instruction, or proselytization.**
  - ▶ Use Bifurcation (separating religious services from secular ones)
  - ▶ Models.
    - ▶ Volunteer specialization
    - ▶ Invitation
    - ▶ Partnerships
    - ▶ Location change
    - ▶ Or just don't bill for it (ex: Ultrasound)

# Government funding might subject the center to increased regulation from the government.

- ▶ Increased legislative attacks mostly in liberal states where funding is not an option anyway.
- ▶ Legislative attacks are not based on funding, but on “deceptive advertising.”
- ▶ States that fund PHOs are very supportive of PHOs
  - ▶ At least 20 states and even the White House have commended pro-life PHOs and their volunteers for the unique and important contributions they have made to their communities.
  - ▶ Not once has a state with Alternative to Abortion funding programs successfully regulated centers beyond standard nonprofit/business regulations (such as fire code requirements).
  - ▶ Only one state (MI) has retracted its funding, but it uses a different model based solely on governor’s discretion.
  - ▶ States using a statutory model have tended to increase funding.
- ▶ May provide more fodder for increased PR attacks, but they would be hypocritical. We can point out that Planned Parenthood gets billions from the government every year.



# We don't want to deal with the administrative burden of accepting government funding.

- ▶ Beauty of the Management Agency model is that you do not have to deal directly with the State.
- ▶ Usually, you are allowed to allocate a portion of the grant to admin costs.  
6%

# We want to advertise to donors and the public that the center "accepts no government funding."

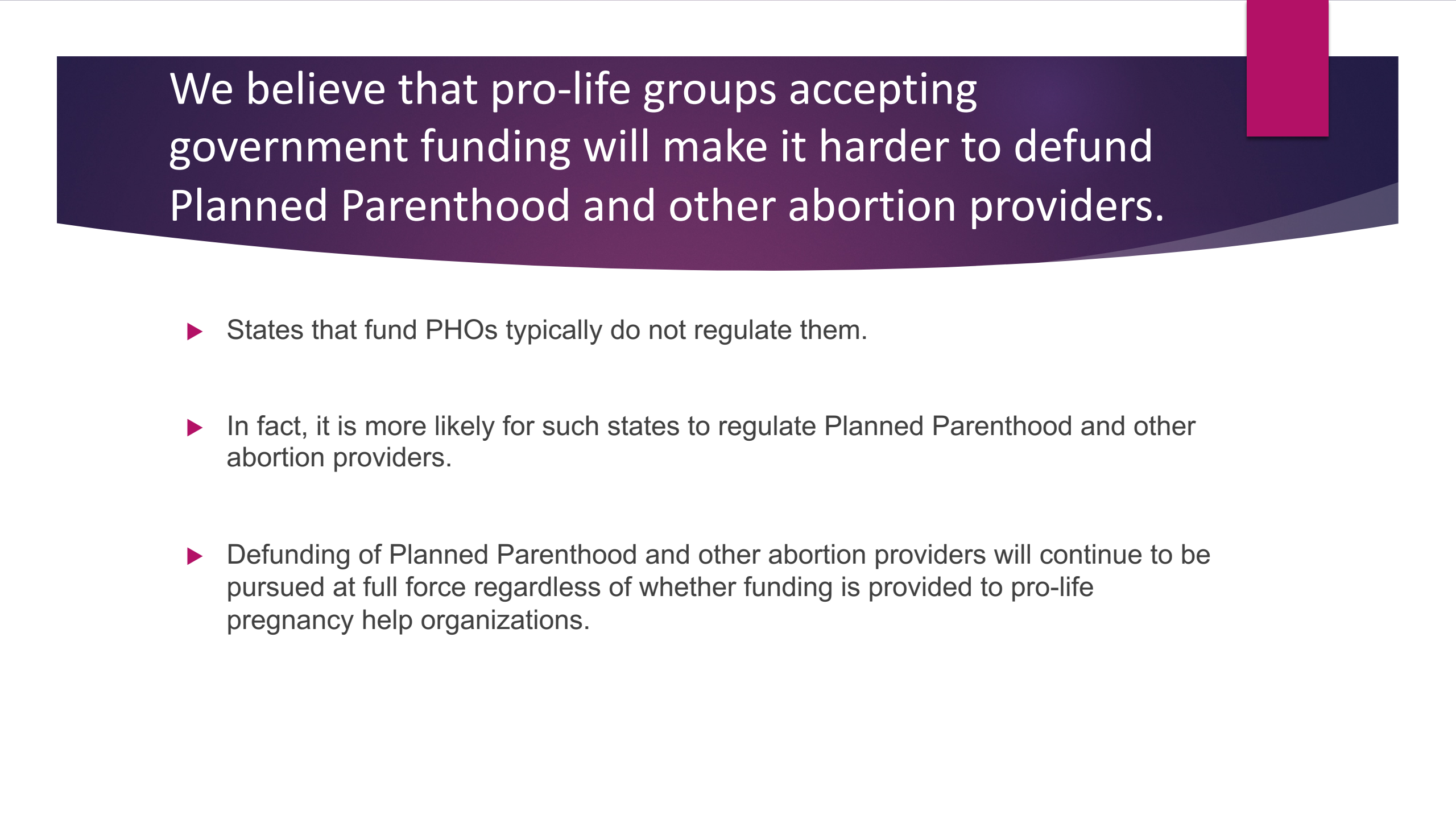
- ▶ Generally, nonprofits that accept government funding, do not see revenues decrease from donors.
- ▶ Private grants often have requirements too. PHOs are not concerned about how donors would respond to those.
- ▶ If this is a concern for your organization, you should poll your donors on their intentions:
- ▶ *West Virginia is planning to provide grants to organizations promoting alternatives to abortion. We are considering participating in the new West Virginia grant program to assist us in expanding our programing to reach more women and save more children from abortion. If we choose to participate in the grant program, would you be more or less likely to continue your current level of funding?*
  - ▶ Poll more your most significant donors
  - ▶ Grant money can make up for lost income

# We believe Christian ministries should not become entangled with the government.

- ▶ Old Testament account of King Cyrus releasing the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem
  - ▶ He provided resources, including funding for them to do so. **Ezra 1:1-4**
  - ▶ “the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”
- ▶ Some also point out that “government funds” are really “taxpayer dollars” and if a state wishes to do good with those funds, and not evil, that Christian organizations should be free to receive such funding.

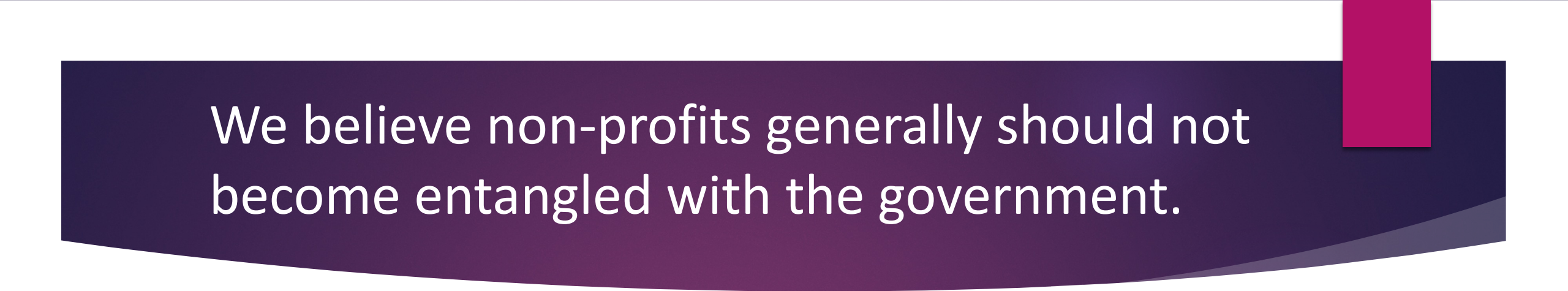
# We all have the funding we need to accomplish our mission and serve our community.

- ▶ Have you surveyed your community needs for gap filling?
- ▶ Explore options for expanding services and partnerships.
- ▶ Increasing budget for items not typically enjoyed:
  - ▶ Travel and Conference expenses
  - ▶ Donor events
  - ▶ Public Awareness events
  - ▶ Hiring additional staff to reduce overload
  - ▶ Do you have a surplus?
  - ▶ Do you have a disaster plan?



We believe that pro-life groups accepting government funding will make it harder to defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

- ▶ States that fund PHOs typically do not regulate them.
- ▶ In fact, it is more likely for such states to regulate Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.
- ▶ Defunding of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers will continue to be pursued at full force regardless of whether funding is provided to pro-life pregnancy help organizations.



We believe non-profits generally should not become entangled with the government.

- ▶ Already are involved in the government. Can't function otherwise.
- ▶ Saying be in this world and not of it.

Always have a Plan B

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Questions?