

Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Senator Melony Griffith
And Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chairman Griffith and Members,

RE: **SB798** – Declaration of Rights — Right to Reproductive Freedom -- **OPPOSE**

The **Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women** which includes 400 members oppose this proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

Maryland has one of the most liberal abortion laws in the country. Roe vs Wade's reversal does not change the laws in Maryland, so it is not necessary to go to the expense and time to include an abortion amendment in the Maryland Constitution.

We are **concerned of the vagueness of the language** in the bill. It appears as though the abortion laws in Maryland could be changed with this amendment, to include abortion for any reason up to the birth. "INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ABILITY TO MAKE AND EFFECTUATE DECISIONS TO PREVENT, CONTINUE, OR END ONE'S OWN PREGNANCY" does not sound as though there will be any restrictions after the point of viability. If this bill passes with the intent to change the law to allow abortions for any reason up until birth, we expect to see clear language that explains this on the ballot so people know what they will be voting for at the voting booth. Voters need to know clearly what they are voting for or against.

By making it a "fundamental right" in the amendment, we are concerned that the cost of abortions will go to tax payers. Many who pay taxes have religious beliefs of protecting life, so forcing them to pay for abortions would not be protecting their religious beliefs.

And, if this "reproductive freedom" amendment covers all persons, what about the freedom of our most young and vulnerable persons? Humans in the womb don't have a voice, but their lives deserve protection too.

For all of these reasons, please give **SB798** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,
Laurie Halverson, President
Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women
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