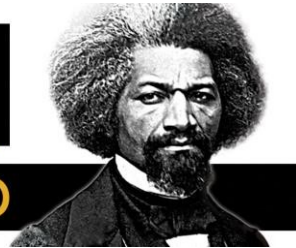


THE **FREDERICK
DOUGLASS**



FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Bill# SB664 -Opposed
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Frederick Douglass Foundation of Maryland opposes SB 664

Dear Honorable Chairman Smith, Senator Lee, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Senate is in the process of reviewing Senate Bill 664 for the 2020 legislative session. The Frederick Douglass Foundation of Maryland strongly opposes this legislation, not only for the nefarious intent behind the legislation, but also for the thinly veiled attempt to shroud from public view the controversial practice of human abortion. We respectfully urge the withdrawal or “unfavorable” report on Senate Bill 664 “Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy”.

We express grave concerns over the echoes of racist United States policy in which euphemistic titles were applied to laws with more nefarious intents. For example, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 was codified as “*An Act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters.*” In like manner, this so called “*Declaration of Rights - Right to Privacy*” is a thinly veiled attempt to remove from scrutiny the controversial practice of human abortion. The authors of this legislation should be transparent with the community and declare the full intent of this law.

Those familiar with the abortion debate understand that the “right to privacy” is a fundamental component of securing the constitutional blind eye to the controversial practice of human abortion. It is common knowledge that the abortion industry so desperately craves “privacy” so as not to be exposed to the public eye. How appropriate that Maryland’s own Frederick Douglass, in his memoir, *My Bondage and My Freedom*, described our state as a place where, “*...slavery, wrapt in its own congenial, midnight darkness, can, and does, develop all its malign and shocking characteristics; where it can be indecent without shame, cruel without shuddering, and murderous without apprehension or fear of exposure.*”

The passage of Senate Bill 664 likewise allows the controversial practice of human abortion to flourish within our state, free of scrutiny or examination. Those sensitive to the racial legacy of Maryland and its dramatic role in the racial discourse throughout the history of our country should reject this law as tasteless and inappropriate. From the painful horrors of the Crownsville Hospital for the Negro Insane, to the shameful opinions of Supreme Court Chief Justice, Roger Taney, lawmakers would be wise to steer Maryland clear of euphemisms, legislative manipulation, and dark secrecy to advance the cause of abortion in our state.

For these reasons and others not declared, The Frederick Douglass Foundation of Maryland respectfully urges your “unfavorable” report on Senate Bill 664 “Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy”. Please consider an alternate and more direct method of helping our community decide how we want to address the controversial practice of human abortion.

Respectfully,

Torrey Snow
President, Frederick Douglass Foundation of Maryland