

March 10, 2020

Bill SB664 (Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy)
Paige Burns
Catherine Foundation Pregnancy Resource Center
Position – Opposed

The Catherine Foundation Pregnancy Resource Center provides free and confidential resources and supplies to anyone in need. We offer pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, abortion pill reversals, an abortion recovery program, maternity clothes, prenatal vitamins, baby essentials and supplies, referrals for community and social services, childbirth and parenting classes and a fatherhood mentorship program. We provide counseling and complete information to anyone who is pregnant regarding the choices available to them and the ramifications of each of those choices. Unlike Planned Parenthood, we do not charge our clients for anything. We want the women who come to us to have a real choice, not to be coerced into doing what they believe will be the easy way out, only to find out that their choice led to more devastation and pain than they could have imagined. Abortion kills children and hurts women. We believe women should be provided with all the facts to help them make informed choices for their families. We believe in empowering them to make the best choice.

One of many examples of this occurred in 2018 at the Catherine Foundation. One of our clients found us by searching the internet about how to reverse the abortion pill. They came to us after taking the abortion pill and realizing it was not what they wanted to do. They wanted to save their baby. The baby was born on April 25, 2019 and will be one-year old next month. What if they had not had that choice? What if there was no way for them to find the needed help? We exist to offer that help and hope. We work extremely hard every day to help moms, dads and their babies.

The Privacy Amendment (Bill SB664) is seriously flawed. It is so ambiguous as to its intention that it obviously would expose the state to lawsuits regarding what constitutes a compelling interest and which subject matter would require a right to privacy. Courts have consistently held that a constitutional right to “privacy” includes a woman’s right to have an abortion. A privacy amendment would invalidate all existing health and safety statutes and regulations regarding abortion and make any future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation impossible.

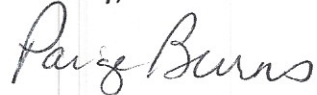
I do not support an amendment enshrining abortion in our state constitution. Abortion is already protected in Maryland state law. Maryland’s current law would not be affected by any Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade. Abortion is not a human right. Abortion is not healthcare and should not be pushed by our state lawmakers. Why should Maryland continue to support abortion at any time of pregnancy for any reason up until birth by constitutional amendment, especially when 76% of people favor some restrictions on abortion after the first trimester? It is extreme, barbaric and indefensible that Maryland has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation.

I cannot help but read the text in the proposed amendment and wonder why, if the goal is to reduce government intrusion, the lawmakers do not see the irony in the fact that in supporting the act of abortion the government is sanctioning the intrusion into a woman’s body with metal instruments and a suction tube to end a person’s life. A person with their own unique DNA, separate from the mother’s DNA. Do we not, as citizens of this state, have a moral obligation to protect children? Are they not citizens, too? The wording of the proposed amendment specifically states, “to establish that each individual has a natural, essential, and inherent right to privacy that guarantees freedom from government intrusion...” Does the state really not understand that a

baby in the womb is also a unique individual worthy of protection? How can you ignore the fact that 77 individual human beings are slaughtered each day in Maryland due to abortion?

It is disturbing that something this open-ended would even be proposed without foreseeing the consequences. We need you, as our elected leaders, to support a more reasonable, informed and humane position on abortion restrictions. Please stand with your voters against this unnecessary and extreme privacy amendment. Please join with us in loving them both - the mother and the baby.

Sincerely,



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