

**Bill SB664 (Declaration of Rights – Right to Privacy)**  
**Commander James W. O’Clock, Retired**  
**Oppose**

I would first like to thank the hearing committee for this opportunity to speak today on SB664.

When one first reads the bill’s language it could be interpreted that this proposed constitutional amendment mainly focuses on such things as stopping government intrusion in such matters as unauthorized collection of certain data on Maryland citizens. Most voting members in our State would basically agree to an amendment that would protect us from government intrusion in our day to day lives. What’s disturbing about this bill is that there is very little explanation or expansion on what Senator Lee states in Article 48 (A) which says, “That each individual has the natural, essential, and inherent right to privacy that guarantees freedom from government intrusion.” The way the bill is written could easily sway voters to think they are agreeing to a new constitutional amendment that protects an individual’s right to privacy in matters dealing with information and regulations and not recognizing the fact that the proposed bill has a hidden agenda.

Regrettably, I see SB664 as a backdoor strategy to create a constitutional amendment that would basically make it legal to protect unrestricted abortion in Maryland. This type of legislation increases my mistrust in our state legislators when they do not present their bills with honesty and clarity. If this bill has nothing to do with the important issue of abortion, it should have been clearly stated in SB664, since the language highlights “right to privacy” and “freedom from government intrusion” verbiage which is noticeably linked to the wording of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision.

My wife Pirkko and I have been residents of Silver Spring for 21 years and believe abortion should be illegal except to save the life of the mother. We realize that many individuals in Maryland state government and the community support abortion. What needs to be understood is that many in the State of Maryland want abortion legal only under certain circumstances. We want to trust our legislators and they should not try to impose hidden agendas upon their constituents. This bill will anger many Marylanders for its deceptive tactics and it won’t be just those who are against abortion like my wife and I.

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