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Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Civil Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law

Task Force to Study Crime
Classification and Penalties



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Favorable Testimony for HB 846 – Public Health – Abortions – Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome (Down Syndrome Dignity Act).

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk and committee members:

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on HB 846 Public Health – Abortions – Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome or the popular title, Down Syndrome Dignity Act. Today is World Down Syndrome Day and the perfect day for this bill hearing.

All lives should be protected, especially the most defenseless, the unborn, even more specifically the unborn with challenges such as Down syndrome.

Other States, Pennsylvania and South Dakota have similar pieces of legislation. This year in Tennessee a bill was passed into law.

To quote Frank Stephens, an advocate for the Down Syndrome community, “I am a man with Down Syndrome, and my life is worth living.” Mr. Stephens sent this powerful message in a 2017 congressional hearing. That should be repeated today. On World Down Syndrome Day, I echo Mr. Stephens’s message.

I ask this committee to remember Mr. Stephens’s words and adopted a favorable report on HB 846.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.L. Cox".

Daniel L. Cox