

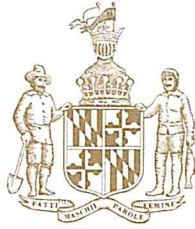
RIC METZGAR  
Legislative District 6  
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee

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Oversight Committee on Pensions

Transportation and the Environment



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## HB 997 Equal Protection for Unborn Human Life Act

March 19, 2021

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and Distinguished Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

For the Record, I am Delegate Ric Metzgar from Legislative District 6 in Baltimore County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. It is always good to be among friends.

The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The purpose of this bill is to grant Equal Protection for Unborn Human Life. Any statute, regulation, rule, or order that has the purpose, intent, or effect of allowing any abortion in the State infringes on an unborn human person's right to life in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Fourteenth Amendment states “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” Due Process is guaranteed to all of us under the Fifth Amendment.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Equal Protection is one of our fundamental natural rights. The enactment of State Law protecting the right to life of all human persons is the constitutional responsibility of the Legislative Branch, not the Judicial Branch. I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. If I take someone’s life, I can be prosecuted for murder or manslaughter. Therefore, anyone with the intent to cause death or serious physical injury by surgical, chemical, or other means to a viable fetus should be prosecuted under criminal law.

An Unborn Human Being, Zygote, Embryo, or Fetus deserves the same Equal Protection Under the Law as you and I.

If a pregnancy presents a clear and immediate threat to the life of the mother, a medical professional shall use all means to exhaust all medical resources to save the lives of the woman and the embryo or fetus, and the medical professional may not be subject to prosecution under this law if the medical professional provides documentation of his/her efforts.

Therefore, both the mother and embryo or fetus shall be treated as patients prohibiting the Maryland Medical Assistance Program from providing certain services to certain women that cause or attempt to cause an abortion and repeal certain provisions of law relating to the provision of abortion services.

Equal Protection is the hallmark of our Democracy. I respectfully request a favorite report on House Bill 997.

Thank you for your time and consideration.