

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
and Members of The Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 1171- Declaration of Rights-Right to Reproductive Liberty

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Members of The Committee,

I agree with Maryland Right to Life that "an abortion amendment will coerce taxpayers into funding abortion-on-demand, invalidate all existing health and safety statutes and regulations regarding abortion, and bar any future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as heartbeat laws, partial birth abortion bans, or dismemberment bans." Additionally, an abortion amendment would "invalidate state abortion restrictions that are supported by the majority of the public..."

HB 1171, if ratified:

- gives a Constitutional right to women to legally murder their unborn child, regardless of the stage of growth and development. No Constitutional Amendment should grant anyone the right to murder another human being;
- Compels physicians, hospitals and other health care providers to participate in abortions, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion;
- Would infringe on the freedom of speech guaranteed by the US Constitution by barring all future attempts to pass legislation such as partial birth abortion bans or dismemberment bans.

Furthermore, HB 1171 is calling for a Maryland State Constitutional Amendment, so that if Roe v. Wade is struck down by the Supreme Court, Maryland will still have full abortion rights, which will not be easily reversed.

It is for these reasons that I ask you to vote for an UNFAVORABLE report for HB 1171- Declaration of Rights- Right to Reproductive Liberty.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price
221 Miller Street
Westernport, MD