



OPPOSE HB1171 - TESTIMONY BY KATHY KELLY, DEMOCRATS FOR LIFE OF MARYLAND

Democrats for Life of Maryland, which is a chapter of Democrats for Life of America (DFLA), opposes HB1171, Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty, sponsored by Delegate A. Jones. Declaring abortion to be a fundamental right poses huge threats to the preborn, and to the freedom of speech and conscience rights of Maryland’s pro-life citizens/taxayers and institutions like hospitals. It can threaten sidewalk counselors, prayer groups, crisis pregnancy centers, protestors, and others. Democrats for Life has been closely following some gruesome abortion injuries to women which occurred at a late-term abortion facility in Bethesda, Maryland during 2020. That is a practice owned and operated by a licensed physician. These tragic injuries are a sign pointing to the need for the state to provide more life-affirming care to women with crisis pregnancies, rather than pitting their needs against those of their children, and pushing them towards abortion only. As Feminists for Life often says, women deserve better than abortion.

There is simply not room on the ballot to include all the implications of and caveats against such an extreme law. It lacks all balance, and needs to be opposed.

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