

Dear Honorable Senators and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to vote against HB 1171, entitled "Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty". If this bill should ever pass, Maryland could potentially become and be known as the "Abortion Capitol of the United States".

The Supreme Court was wrong in *Roe v. Wade*. When the Justices wrestled with when life begins, they should have erred on the side of caution. Their decision denied over 60,000,000 citizens their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Their ruling has resulted in a devastating effect on our economy. Since 1973, major work forces have been eliminated. Today, we cannot fill all of our jobs. These unborn citizens would have been consumers, producers and workers, keeping Social Security solvent.

Most important, abortion is morally wrong. There are nearly three dozen passages in the Old Testament alone that support life in the womb. Below are just some of the verses from the *Saint Joseph, New Catholic Edition of the Holy Bible*, Catholic Book Publishing Company, NY, NY (1962).

God told Rebecca, "Two nations are in your womb; two peoples shall stem from your body...." (Gen 25:23) God knew her baby boys before their birth.

An angel of the Lord told Samson's mother, "As for the son you will conceive and bear, no razor shall touch his head, for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb...." (Judges 13:5)

Job told God, "Your hands have formed me and fashioned me;..." (Job 10:8); and, "Did You not pour me out as milk, and thicken me like cheese? With skin and flesh you clothed me, with bones and sinews knit me together." (Job 10:10-11)

"Truly You have formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb. I give You thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works. My soul also You knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to You when I was made in secret, when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth." (Psalm 138(139):13-15)

"Just as you know not how the breath of life fashions the human frame in the mother's womb, so you know not the work of God which He is accomplishing in the universe." (Eccles 11:5)

"He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart." (Sirach 17:5)

"I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations." (Isa 42:6)

"Thus says the Lord Who made you, your help, Who formed you from the womb: Fear not, O Jacob, My servant, the darling whom I have chosen." (Isa 44:2)

"Remember this, O Jacob, you, O Israel, who are My servant! I formed you to be a servant to Me; O Israel, by Me you shall never be forgotten." (Isa 44:21)

"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, Who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, Who made all things,..." (Isa 44:24)

“Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The Lord called me from birth, from my mother’s womb He gave me my name.” (Isa 49:1)

“For now the Lord has spoken Who formed me as His servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to Him and Israel gathered to Him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength!” (Isa 49:5)

Jeremia stated, “The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” (Jer 1:4-5)

Then there is the mother who witnessed the brutal torture and murder of her seven sons at the hands of Antiochus. As she encouraged each son to be brave as they faced death rather than offend God, “she said to them: I know not how you were formed in my womb, for I neither gave you breath, nor soul, nor life, neither did I frame the limbs of every one of you. But the Creator of the world, that formed the nativity of man, and that found out the origin of all, He will restore to you again in His mercy both breath and life,...” (2 Mach 7:22-23)

The Bible is so clearly instructive when we open our hearts, minds and souls to God’s sacred words.

Vincent dePaul Gisriel, Jr.

14008 Sailing Rd

Ocean City, MD 21842

410-251-1360