

Dear Delegates,

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Maryland is already a state where abortion is available throughout pregnancy. Maryland is even a destination state for those seeking abortion.

This bill does the opposite of protecting women and, certainly, does not protect the unborn child. This will encourage human traffickers to bring women and underage girls here for abortions. I am disgusted that our state would make its citizens be forced to pay for these abortions. An abortion amendment means that any attempts to regulate abortion would require a new amendment to the Constitution. Safety regulations would be decried as making access more difficult and speaking about non-violent alternatives to abortion would be seen as an obstacle to abortion access. A companion bill seeks to remove the requirement of a licensed physician to perform the abortion.

Informed consent for any medical procedure should always be the norm. A woman seeking pregnancy support should know that she is receiving all information available about pregnancy and care available for her and her child.

In addition, this amendment would codify the legal killing of a segment of the population, unborn people. What segment of the population will be next to be determined as inconvenient or disposable?

I urge each of you to recognize the value of the human person and their Constitutional right to life and reject this bill.

Thank you

Libby DeMattia