



## Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 30, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1171 – *Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty*

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** House Bill 1171.

We have seen state representatives across the nation attempting to limit the use of medical abortions, restrict access entirely to safe abortions, and even attempt to regulate circumstances for having an abortion. MDACOG applauds the Speaker of the House for introducing this legislation aimed at giving Maryland women permanent protections with regard to abortion access.

House Bill 1171 seeks to establish permanent protection of abortion rights in Maryland. While it is likely that a majority of General Assembly members will remain supportive of abortion rights for the next few generations, the past few years have clearly shown that there can be political shifts that could put protection of abortion rights at risk as we are seeing in other States. House Bill 1171, if enacted, would place on the ballot of the next general election a constitutional amendment that, if passed, would establish that every person, as a central component of the individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive liberty and would prohibit the State from directly or indirectly denying, burdening, or abridging that right, unless justified by a compelling State interest. Amending the State's Constitution will ensure access to abortion along with other reproductive rights in perpetuity.

MDACOG supports safe, legal, and accessible abortion services free from harmful restrictions. The State's adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment will permanently secure the right to reproductive liberty, including the right to abortion care. MDACOG strongly urges a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

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