

HB1171
OPPOSE
2022

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Dear Senators,

The Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

Thus was the basis upon which the Founding Fathers formed our country. The first right designated in this proclamation was the right to life. Science tells us that life begins at conception and no person that lives or has lived ever came into existence without that first step. Abortion is the denial of that right to unborn people simply because of their size, development, location and level of dependence.

Size does not determine humanity or that would mean the bigger a person is, the more human they are. Development does not determine humanity or that would mean that an adult is more human than a teenager and a teenager is more human than a preteen and so on. Location does not determine humanity or we would not be concerned with providing medical care to pregnant women and advising women against behaviors such as drinking or smoking that would harm the baby. There would be no need for product labels that warn of potential harm to an unborn baby. Level of dependence doesn't determine humanity or we would change our humanity as we go through life and in and out of needing others or needing medical life support based on our health status whether that is mechanical ventilation in a hospital or walking around with an oxygen tank.

The preamble of our United States Constitution states, “We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

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HB1171 seeks to establish a right, a right to kill a certain part of the population, that does not exist in the US Constitution and is contrary to the founding of our country and the establishment of our government. The rights of one person end where the rights of another person begin. What is just about allowing the killing of unborn people? How does abortion insure domestic tranquility or promote the general welfare? Abortion does the opposite for if we allow one type of killing it will surely lead to another type of killing. As our nation continues to seek “a more perfect union,” abortion takes us backward. Everyone likes to believe that they would have been on the right side of slavery. Here we are with the great injustice of our time, the killing of over one million babies in our country every year. Now is the opportunity to be on the right side of this human rights issue. Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, wrote to Dr. Clarence Gamble in 1939, “We don’t want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the negro population and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members.”

Amendment V of the Constitution states, “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

There are those who say abortion is necessary in cases of rape and incest but abortion is capital punishment for the innocent baby. The baby pays a price for the criminal conduct of the father. The baby is not provided his due process. The baby is innocent. The baby is deprived of life and is unable to speak for himself to say, “Let me live!”

Amendment XIV, Section 1 states, “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

This bill denies due process to the unborn people of the United States. On the one hand, non-citizen pregnant women come to the United States to have their babies and are afforded government benefits because of their unborn babies but the unborn citizens of the United States are treated as non-entities.

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On the one hand we have laws against killing people, as we should, but this bill protects the ability to kill a segment of the population, unborn people. Conferring a right of abortion to women denies the right to life for unborn people. This is preying upon the most vulnerable people in our community.

This bill is called Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty; however, this bill is about abortion and there is nothing reproductive about abortion. It is a less than 2 page bill. Proponents of this bill want our Constitution amended and did not put down in writing how making abortion a right is for the common good. There is no common good when laws are enacted to protect the killing of people. The Constitution is meant to limit the powers of the government and protect the rights of the people, not the other way around.

On Monday, the Senate passed SB0890 which vastly expands abortion by removing the physician requirement. I thank the Senators impassioned pleas for this body to recognize the humanity of the baby and how abortion negatively impacts women. I also heard Senator Kelley's reasons for needing more people other than physicians to do abortions and states those same reasons for abortions in general. Senator Kelley repeatedly cites ectopic pregnancies. Planned Parenthood and other abortion centers are not performing procedures for medical emergencies. An ectopic pregnancy is a medical emergency and these surgeries are performed by skilled surgeons at hospitals, not at a very limited clinic. According to the NIH website, ectopic pregnancies occur at 19.7 per 1000 women (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pms/articles/PMC1247706/)

Senator Kelley talks about 10 year old girls being victims of rape and incest. How many 10 year old girls are victims of rape and incest and how many of them are pregnant? How many 10 year olds have actually started menstruating and would be capable of conceiving a child? Whether it's 10 year olds or older females, women are only capable of conceiving during about 3-5 days of their cycle. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 women have experienced a completed or attempted rape (nsvrc.org). According to the NIH website, pregnancy occurs in 5% of the women raped and many do not choose abortion. The 3,000-4,000 abortions per day in this country are not all for pregnancies due to rape. She talks about how life isn't a cuddly world or a "fuzzy wuzzy" world. She limits her experiences to the negative aspects of our world. She claims there are not people willing to adopt. There are bad things in this world but that is not the norm and we must not right laws that kill people to protect from the bad things. We need to punish those who harm others and promote policies that provide an environment

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for welcoming life. Maryland has banned the death penalty but now seeks to enshrine in our Constitution the death penalty for unborn people.

I volunteered at a crisis pregnancy center for 8 years and have met women who experienced rape or incest. One or two had an abortion due to the sexual assault. The abortion was another violence against them and did not heal their wounds. They regretted the killing of their baby. One of those women was a young lady who had been gang raped as she was coming to our border. Her daughter was the light of her life. We helped this young lady get the care she needed during her pregnancy and the help after her daughter was born.

I am an adopted child and I have a brother who is an adopted child. There are many adopted children and there are many couples adopting children today. My biological mother and other women make the loving decision to allow others to raise their children. I've had the good fortune to meet her and thank her.

Many people have experienced trauma in their lives but that does not mean they will lead unproductive lives. Thankfully, people, even children, are resilient and find ways to overcome trauma and lead wonderful, productive lives. Mental health practices exist for that very purpose.

Last, women go into an abortion center to end their pregnancy. The sad truth is that the pregnancy is ended but the woman and the father are still parents. The abortion center has made them the parents of a dead baby. There is no funeral. There is no memorial. Abortion advocates deny this reality and ignore the stories of women who regret their abortion. The Silent No More organization and the Project Rachel ministry were created for the healing of post-abortive women.

Abortion kills the baby and harms women physically, emotionally and spiritually. On Monday night, Senator Reilly discussed the incidence of suicide or suicidal ideation post-abortion. A woman who has had an abortion is 6 times more likely to attempt suicide than a woman who has given birth. You can learn more about women's mental health struggles after abortion from the websites Silent No More Awareness (www.silentnomoreawareness.org) and Project Rachel (<https://hopeafterabortion.com>). Women deserve emotional and material support for themselves and their babies, not the devastation of abortion. Abortion is a permanent action for a temporary condition.

Our laws need to protect all human life. Laws are made on generalities and the exceptions are decided on a case by case basis. Pregnancy is a gift, not a disease. Babies are not the enemy. Babies are a gift. Do not make Maryland the abortion state. Do not enshrine killing into our Maryland Constitution. Vote NO on HB1171.

Thank you.