

I am a resident of District 40 and live in Baltimore City, Maryland. I strongly oppose HB 1171 as its passage and addition to our State's Declaration of Rights would be a blemish on our state much as slavery was in previous times, and for much the same reason. Just as the slave was considered a "non-human", so too do abortion proponents consider the unborn child a "non-human". However, if one simply "follows the science", specifically biology and genetics, one would realize that at the moment of conception, a new human individual is created with a genetic make-up different from his or her parents. Once there is a heartbeat and brainwaves, there is no denying that there is a life and, genetically, a human life. This bill would allow anyone, for any reason or even no reason, to kill that human life, and this bill would enshrine it as a right. No person of good will should stand for that.

The abortion industry claims that it serves our country by sparing the nation of "unwanted children". This is a multi-million-dollar industry that is paid to abort unborn children and, in some cases, adds to their profits by selling the body parts of these babies for medical and other research. The founder of the abortion organization Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a eugenicist whose mission was to remove all "so-called undesirables" from society. In particular, she wanted to erase from our nation people of color. Along with this testimony is a 1939 letter that Margaret Sanger penned in which she admitted that she and her organization "don't want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population". Please read this letter and decide if this is really a position you want to ally yourselves to. Elective abortion is a policy of humans deciding which other humans are or are not desirable for society. It is a policy of deciding which humans to exterminate, and the latest CDC statistics show that babies of color are proportionately more likely to be aborted, just as Margaret Sanger planned. How Maryland's first African-American female Speaker can propose a constitutional amendment to make this a "right" is beyond comprehension!

Maryland currently has among the most permissive abortion laws in the nation. The last thing we need is a constitutional amendment to enshrine the killing of unborn babies as a right, as something good. Therefore, I urge the members of the General Assembly to vote no on this horrendous bill. If Maryland politicians serve only the abortion industry, much as they did slaveowners in previous times, our state will again be on the wrong side of history. As science continues to advance in the area of prenatal care and as the age of viability decreases, the American people are becoming more pro-life, and polls show that vast majorities of Americans support restrictions on abortion, even if they see a reason for it in some instances, such as rape, incest or the life of the mother.

This is a bad bill. Please vote no. This bill does not promote the common good, and in fact, only serves to do greater harm to our State and our nation. Thank you.