

Re:HB1171

To State of Maryland General Assembly, March 30, 2022

The passage of HB1171 will take the Old Line State to within one step from becoming a haven for shielding the perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape of minors including even prepubescent children. There is no mention of the *age* of individuals who can be involved in a sexual relationship. Minors and even prepubescent children will be targeted by pedophiles who will be protected by the provisions of this bill. Thanks to the lack of any restrictions on abortion resulting from HR1171, pregnancies resulting from child rape would be aborted under the pressure applied to the child victims by the perpetrators thus eliminating the evidence of the assault. Parental consent for these abortions is also bypassed. Furthermore, given the headlines and the statistics compiled by organizations like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME> sexual assault on children is a growing scourge. Maryland is two steps away from becoming the go-to state for child predators both freelance and organized.

As the father of two children it is inconceivable to me that anyone who has read this bill, *much less the elected State representatives of Maryland*, could possibly endorse or vote for it. Please vote against this heinous bill.

Donald Hansen