

HB1171 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty
UNFAVORABLE

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

I am writing in opposition of House Bill 1171, which seeks to add a right to an abortion to the Maryland state constitution. This bill is unnecessary given Maryland's already very permissive abortion access laws. Legal scholars from both sides of the abortion debate agree that in the event that the Supreme Court of the United States overturn Roe versus Wade, nothing would change in Maryland women's ability to seek abortion in this state.

Late-term abortion is still incredibly unpopular with the electorate, even an electorate that is permissive of abortion at earlier stages of pregnancy. The declaration of a right to an abortion would not only expand late-term practices in our state but also create the necessity to fund such a practice from the state budget.

There are already hundreds of thousands of dollars of the state Medicaid funding that goes towards semi-elective abortions which is abhorrent to the taxpaying public. It would be incredible injustice to create public funding for elective, late-term, or post-viability abortions in Maryland.

I urge you to issue an unfavorable report on HB1171.

Sincerely,
Linda Diefenbach
Middletown, MD