

I am utterly appalled by the evil ramifications of HB1171, a bill that would in effect incorporate into the Maryland Constitution the decriminalization of statutory rape. Under the guise of a “right of reproductive liberty” the Bill would allow for unfettered sexual abuse of minors by adults since it sets no age parameters in enumerating these so-called reproductive rights but says “any person”. It would turn Maryland into a haven, not limited to citizens of Maryland, for tax funded abortions with no State restrictions whatsoever. Maryland would become an attractive destination for child rapists and traffickers who could bring their underage victims here to procure abortions, at the expense of Maryland taxpayers, and without fear of prosecution or even of any inquiry into the age or circumstances of the pregnant person.

The language of the bill is deceptive: The “right to reproductive liberty” gives no indication of the barbaric violations of human rights that would be permitted, indeed enshrined, in our Maryland Constitution as a result of the passage of this bill. HB1171 would shred the protections that Maryland and all civilized societies have afforded their children.

The deceptiveness of the language is especially alarming since Maryland voters will be asked to approve its incorporation into our Constitution by referendum. What well intentioned voter would *not* support “liberty and equality”? What well intentioned voter would not *reject* permitting an adult to have sex with a child (“any person”) without fear of prosecution? Extending “reproductive liberty” to “any person” with no age parameters as HB1171 does, would effectively erase age of consent laws; nowhere in the language to appear on the ballot is this made clear.

Defeat this barbaric and evil proposal now!