

Maryland General Assembly
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD
21401

RE: HB 1171

March 29, 2022

To the Maryland General Assembly,

I write to oppose to HB 1171, euphemistically styled, "Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty". Enacting this bill will essentially erase statutory rape and age of consent laws. Absent any mention of age, this bill makes no distinction between adults and children. It will allow minors, children, to decide without their parent's consent to have abortions, be sterilized or even undergo transgender treatments and procedures. To say that minors are competent to make such life altering decisions (they are after all minors for a reason), or that their parents should be debarred from guiding them in such circumstances, is absurd on its face. HB 1171 not only makes children more vulnerable, but can reasonably be viewed as the state's attempt to supplant the nuclear family and for these reasons must not become law.

Respectfully,

Lance Heller
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