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In addition to erasing any abortion safety or health protections for women currently in Maryland law, and preventing future legislators from enacting laws to protect women and innocent unborn children from abortionists like Dr. Kermit Gosnell, the words “not limited to...” and “fundamental right to reproductive liberty” will create sexual “rights” chaos.

There is no minimum age in HB 1171, therefore a twelve-year-old could seek an abortion, sterilization or receive transgender surgery and drugs resulting in sterility without their parents’ consent or knowledge! All minors would be guaranteed “reproductive liberty.”

Currently, the age of consent to sexual intercourse is 16. That means persons 15 and under cannot now legally consent to sex. Under HB1171, it would be unconstitutional and illegal to criminalize sex between minors and adults because the Democrat Speaker’s Amendment states, “That every person (not every Adult person), as a central component of the individual’s (not Adult individual’s) rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive liberty which includes the right to make and effectuate decisions regarding the individual’s own reproduction, including but not limited to the ability to prevent, continue, or end their pregnancy.”

Those who cannot afford contraceptive/abortifacient drugs, abortions or transgender operations would have them tax-paid so as to not “burden or abridge” the person (no age limit) from exercising his or her reproductive liberty “rights” which includes killing their unborn children and mutilating their bodies.

The words of HB 1171, that Maryland shall not “deny, burden, or abridge” reproductive rights can easily be applied to sex between adults and minors and pornography if it serves “reproductive liberty.” It could also compel a woman to be fitted with an IUD, undergo sterilization or abortion even against her will if “justified by a compelling state interest.”

“Compelling state interest” had been used to justify compulsory sterilization under a Eugenics law in Virginia. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, wrote for the U.S. Supreme Court in *Buck v. Bell* (1927):

“The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11. Three generations of imbeciles are enough.”

Where does the Speaker’s bill spell out exactly what is meant by “compelling state interest?” Under which circumstances could the state require sterilization or forced abortion? Would preventing an out of wedlock birth, or imposing population control for the sake of “climate change” be a “compelling state interest?” What if the Medicaid health insurance budget for the poor became burdensome?

HB 1171 goes far beyond the infamous 1973 Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision. Under *Roe*, states could ban tax paid abortions, require parental notice before a minor has an abortion, enact waiting periods before undergoing abortion, uphold conscience protections for medical personnel or institutions which do not want to participate in abortion, preserve the tax exempt status for religious hospitals to not perform abortions or transgender surgeries.

If Speaker Jones does not intend to undo these sensible and meager protections which abortion proponents consider a burden, she should pull HB 1171. If she wants these consequences enacted, she needs to be truthful and tell Marylanders exactly what this constitutional amendment will require or permit.

It is a cynical manipulation of voters to avoid the word “abortion” and the fact that it kills children. Neither the Ballot Referendum language, nor the actual Constitutional Amendment contain the word “abortion.”

Prior to Roe vs Wade in 1973, the law in Maryland affirmed that abortion took the life of a child, and penalized abortionists who advertised or provided, “any poison, drug, mixture, preparation, medicine or noxious thing ... for the purpose of causing the ... abortion of any woman pregnant with child, at any period of her pregnancy ...”

In 1973, forty-three of fifty states expressly recognized that abortion kills a human person, a child, or abortion was designated as manslaughter or second degree murder, with penalties only for the abortionist. How far we have fallen!

The present language of HB 1171 would hardly pass “truth in advertising” requirements. If the supporters of HB 1171 want “anything goes” abortion and sexual chaos for minors, they should be honest and not hide behind rhetoric designed to portray HB 1171 simply as a measure to provide “liberty.”

In reality, HB 1171 will endanger and entice more women to sentence innocent unborn children who have no voice, liberty or power to protect their own lives. **The Speaker’s HB 1171 will also eliminate parents’ ability to guide their minor children to protect them from harmful sexual behaviors and physical and mental abuse.**

Moreover, legal abortion is NOT “safe” for women. The Charlotte Lozier Institute, using Medicaid claims data over 17 years of 423,000 verified abortions found that: “the rate of abortion-related emergency room visits following a chemical abortion increased over 500% from 2002 through 2015.”

Please do not forward this horrible proposed amendment to the Senate floor for a vote!

