

HB1171 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty OPPOSED (Unfavorable)

Dear Respected Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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 due to our currently permissive abortion statutes, which remain in tact in the event the current precedents *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton* are overturned by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Adding abortion to Maryland's Declaration of Rights is also a dangerous step towards becoming a "pro-abortion" state, rather than a "pro-choice" state. Throughout the 2022 General Assembly Session, committees, sub-committees, and legislators on the House and Senate Floor have referred or passed legislation which creates training programs for abortionists, public funding for abortions, and expanded the providers allowed to perform abortions, which are by definition deadly. The General Assembly perennially considers speech suppressing legislation that would knee-cap pro-life pregnancy centers offering the other side of "choice" - life-affirming options which support parenting or adoption referral. Adding the right to kill a child at any stage of development - the precise outcome of Speaker Jones's HB1171 - firmly solidifies Maryland's priorities: abortion or nothing.

What does it say about our state that we are living through historic inflation, housing prices, and unemployment, but our legislative priorities have been fixated on **expanding** abortion in our state? Stand in true solidarity with the poor and vulnerable and offer them a hand up, not death and destruction.

I urge you to issue an unfavorable report on HB1171.

Sincerely,

Seth Rak
Bryans Road, MD