

I urge the Maryland General Assembly to OPPOSE HB 1171, which would enshrine abortion in Maryland's Constitution. There is no need for a Constitutional amendment.

This bill provides legal protection for individuals who may coerce women into abortion, including sexual abusers and sex traffickers. The bill binds the hands of the state and bars law enforcement officials from investigating or prosecuting sexual abusers, sex traffickers, and empowers sexual predators to continue to abuse their victims.

House Bill 1171 goes far beyond simply attempting to codify the (erroneous) decisions of Roe and Casey. It incorporates "strict scrutiny" for abortion claims in a manner that will have a deleterious effect on a host of other laws, and neglects the balancing pursued by the Court.

Maryland needs to support women and their children through life-affirming healthcare and practical resources that address basic needs and help them and us embrace the gift of life.