

P.O. Box 6040  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
March 29, 2022

Chairman Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee  
East Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Re: HB1171 – **OPPOSED**

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I respectfully submit the following testimony on behalf of the nearly 1,500 statewide members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women to strongly **OPPOSE** House Bill 1171.

The proposed House Bill 1171 that would create a Constitutional Amendment to appear on the 2022 election ballot is fundamentally flawed by its very LANGUAGE.

An October 2021 Goucher College poll found that more than half of Marylanders want at least **some** restrictions on abortion. Yet the language of this bill is written so broadly that it would allow abortion AT ANY TIME, and would effectively even take away from YOU, our elected representatives, the POWER to REGULATE abortion.

Additionally, the proposed Constitutional amendment would remove all existing health and safety measures for pregnant women and force Maryland taxpayers to fund abortions even when it is in direct opposition to their personal values and moral objections.

The very phrase “including but not limited to” opens the door to a very loose interpretation of this amendment. Even the Supreme Court of the United States declared that a woman’s right to end a pregnancy is limited in some respects.

Next, the language of both the amendment and the ballot question is incomplete, deliberately deceitful and misleading as it does NOT define “reproductive liberty” and does not even contain the word “abortion” which is really what this is all about.

The bill does not define “perinatal,” which the medical community defines as the time from the 20th week of pregnancy through 28 days AFTER birth. This effectively decriminalizes infanticide. Using the term “perinatal” would allow the murder of newborns through neglect or violence by the mother within that 28 day period with no legal ramifications.

No doubt, the wording that will appear on the ballot will seem very benign to the average voter and will most certainly NOT convey the TRUE INTENT of the amendment, which is to allow abortion at any time, any place, without any consideration to either the father (without whom the pregnancy would not have happened) or the unborn child whose viability has been accepted for decades by the medical community to occur at 24 weeks into the pregnancy.

Please vote **AGAINST** House Bill 1171.

Thank you.

Anne White, Treasurer, Maryland Federation of Republican Women