

There are 2 main reasons I'm against the Bill.

The firstly, is that the way it is written, that there is no way that a rapist could be convicted of raping anyone underage while procuring the underage child of an abortion along with removing ALL rights from a parent of a child in regards to anything reproductive, including removing/changing their sexual organs. **This bill favors the child trafficker and would promote child trafficking.**

Secondly, [House Bill 1171](#) would establish a fundamental right to reproductive liberty and would enshrine abortion, at any stage, into our State Constitution. We believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and all life should be protected and respected from conception to natural death. There is no need for a Constitutional amendment; unfortunately, Maryland currently has one of the highest rates of abortion in the country and there is no lack or risk of access to abortion. As a society we are broken when a response to any pregnancy is fear rather than joy. We must do better as a society to walk with mothers in need and help break down economic, social, racial, employment and emotional barriers that lead mothers into thinking abortion is the only option.

As Pope Francis reminds us *"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor....they deserve the utmost reverence and respect."*

For these reasons, we urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1171.