



HB1171 Right to Reproductive Liberty  
OPPOSE  
Pastor Stan Long  
Associate Executive Director,  
Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement

March 29, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am sending this testimony as an ordained African American member of the local clergy. We had the joys and challenges of pastoring congregations for 30 years in both the Forest Park and Pen Lucy communities of Baltimore City. We now serve in executive leadership with the Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement (BALM), a non-profit ministry that is seeking to bring Christian discipleship and leadership development to men and women in the city and the greater metro region. Near the top of the many issues faced by the citizens of this city is the sad reality that so many lives are snuffed out before they can see the light of day. Over 40 years ago Terri and I, newly married with all the idealism of youth, made a commitment to do our small part in addressing the struggle for the unborn. After graduating from Loyola her first job in 1983 was serving as Director of the Baltimore Pregnancy Center, now known as the Center for Pregnancy Concerns. I also served for several years on the board of directors for that young organization. Through the years, after I became ordained and entered into pastoral ministry, we both have continued to mourn the fact that when the many great social ills of our city are listed: crime, education, drugs, father absence, police/citizen relationships, housing, etc., there is seldom any mention of this ongoing tragedy. We hope that our great state of Maryland and the nation might soon realize that the science clearly tells us the truth about those still in the womb and embrace the clear implications of this.

Let me also add that this issue became even more personal for Terri and me in 1991. With 2 young children already, we learned that her third pregnancy involved 3 little lives growing within her. Yes, we were expecting triplets! We were stunned when the doctor asked us in the very first consult about what she called "selective reduction." It was a new term for us, but we knew exactly what it meant. It took about 2 seconds for us to declare that as a non-option. I won't go on to tell you all the many things that this crisis pregnancy did in changing our family forever. But let me simply say that now, many years later, there are 3 mature adults who are about to turn 30 and they, their spouses and children are very glad that we didn't do what many would still say we had every reason to do. We thank God that they are 3 solid kids who we believe by God's grace are making a difference in their small parts of His world. Was it easy for us? Of course not. But we look back with absolutely no regrets. I urge you to not pass this bill. I speak for the sake of all those little ones who can't speak for themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Stanley J. Long  
Teaching Elder, Presbyterian Church in America  
Associate Executive Director for BALM - <https://baltimoremovement.org>