

Dear Delegates:

I strongly oppose this bill. Please examine your conscience in regards to HB 1171. Why is the state legislator more concerned with protecting cats from declawing, but NOT concerned about protecting the most innocent of all, the unborn & young children?

Why seek to dehumanize and belittle life? Children are not disposable. Children should be protected by the whole of society. HB 1171 opens up children to statutory rape, while seeking to undermine parental rights.

This bill not only seeks to codify abortion, but to make Maryland an abortion destination. Abortion should not be an attribute we are using to attract out-of-state visitors.

I implore each and every delegate to step away from their assigned team and look at the reality of what HB 1171 is attempting to accomplish. Maryland should not be in a race to the bottom with California. The majority of unborn children that are aborted are minorities. Why no outcry regarding genocide? Our culture is one of death, children are disposable, females in distress are encouraged and pressured to abort their children and dispose of them like trash, many are left with emotional scars that destroy a females' psyche for the rest of their lives. We must remember that all life is sacred.

My own family has been touched by adoption. My sister ended up pregnant and single at a very young age in the military, in spite of the upheaval in her life, she carried her child full-term and chose a family for adoption. The adoption is open, my nephew is now 18, and we have a wonderful extended family due to my sister's decision. My husband and I have an adopted daughter. It is repugnant to begin to imagine that her birth mother could have chose to have aborted her. It is even more repugnant to think that HB 1171 removes the protection from those 12 & over to be bamboozled into an abortion by an adult without parental consent, or that this bill basically removes statutory rape as a prosecutable offense.

I am asking each and every one of you to consider the damage this bill will have on many lives, both unborn and the most vulnerable, our children. If you voted to protect felines, you must vote to protect children.

Victoria Harvey  
Bel Air, MD