

A woman's right to reproductive abortion would be acceptable if the other human involved, mainly the child in the womb, was given the same rights as the woman. May I also mention that the child is housed in the uterus, an organ found in biological females. That organ's sole purpose each month is to prepare itself for the implantation of a fertilized egg. At the moment the sperm cell of the human male meets the ovum of the female and the union results in a fertilized ovum (zygote), **a new life has begun**..... That new life is its own life and it should be protected from anyone who thinks ending that life, for whatever reason, supersedes the child's right to a life in and outside of the womb.

Regarding parental consent and minors (children in general) Parental involvement laws benefit the adolescent, the family, and society, according to a number of recent independent studies. For example, [research shows](#) that the enactment of parental involvement laws led to a reduction in the number of fifteen-to-seventeen-year-old females who committed suicide. [Another study](#) showed that parental involvement laws reduced risky sexual activity among teenage girls, including reduction in the rates of pregnancies, abortion, and gonorrhea for females under twenty. [Other studies indicate](#) that parental involvement laws are an important causal factor in reducing the incidence of abortion among minors without increasing birth rates. Such laws have been shown to reduce abortion rates among minors by 13.6 percent. If parental consent is required rather than simply parental notification, the minor abortion rate was reduced by about 19 percent.

In addition, it is appalling that there would be no accountability to anyone who took advantage of a minor who has limited life experiences which minimizes their ability to discern what is best for them or their future.

I am profoundly against the passing of HB1171 and I ask Maryland officials to stop it dead in its tracks. So much more harm than good will come from this bill.