

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Abortion Amendment, House Bill 1171 -

Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty. I do not support this extreme amendment to enshrine abortion and genocide in our state Constitution.

Abortion violence has NO place in our state Constitution. The right to life for all human beings is unalienable and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Maryland. By passing this bill, you will be declaring war against preborn children - the most vulnerable members of our human family.

As a state elected official, you swore an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. You have a Constitutional obligation to guarantee the right to LIFE, which is the foundation of all other liberties. You also have an obligation not to infringe on our Freedom of Speech or Free Exercise of Religion, as well as our rights of Representation, Assembly, Due Process and Equal Protection under the law. By passing this bill, you will be violating your Oath of Office and infringing on the rights of Maryland citizens.

Under Supreme Court precedent, Maryland lawmakers have the right to pass laws to protect women's health throughout pregnancy, to restrict abortion after viability, and to ban ALL public funding for abortion. But this Abortion Amendment would take the power to regulate abortion away from you- our elected representatives, remove all existing health and safety measures for pregnant women, and force Maryland taxpayers to fully fund ALL ABORTIONS.

Further, abortion is not healthcare but an act of violence against defenseless human beings. Please focus instead on providing better for the needs of pregnant women and families by investing in greater access to quality prenatal care, parenting education and support, affordable adoption programs and foster care reform.

Despite public opinion which favors abortion restrictions, Maryland has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation. Are you aware that recent polls show that Americans heavily favor restrictions during the last two trimesters of pregnancy? In fact, 71% of people favor some restrictions on abortion after the first trimester. A majority (54%) oppose public funding for abortion. 81% prefer policies to protect the lives of both mothers and preborn children. (Marist Poll January 2022)

Since the public supports reasonable restrictions on abortion and lifesaving alternatives to abortion, why should the state of Maryland continue to promote the extreme and barbaric position of abortion at any time of pregnancy for any reason up until BIRTH by constitutional amendment? It is indefensible.

The reality is that this bill could make Maryland the late term abortion capital of the United States for GENERATIONS. This bill would subject more women and girls to sexual abuse and sex trafficking. This bill would have a genocidal effect on Black Lives in Maryland, who are disproportionately targeted for destruction by abortion, the leading killer of Black lives in America.

We need you, as our elected leader, to please protect pregnant women and their children from predatory abortion practices and support a more reasonable, informed and humane position on abortion restrictions.

Please do not enshrine violence, sexual exploitation and genocide as a Constitutional right in Maryland. We ask you to stand with pregnant women and families and vote against House Bill 1171 and this extreme amendment to our Constitution.

Respectfully,

B. Leehan