

**Oppose - House Bill 1171, A Constitutional Amendment
Declaration of Rights—Right to Reproductive Liberty
February 22, 2022**

Delegate Adrienne Jones
Delegate Shane Pendergrass
Delegate Josaline Pena-Melnyk
Members of Health and Government Operations Committee

I respectfully oppose HB1171 Declaration of Rights—Right to Reproductive Liberty. As a nurse practitioner providing health care to women for over 30 years, I have seen many changes. Technology and treatments are ever developing, advancing, and sometimes failing. Medications and procedures are researched, tried, widely prescribed, and then may fall out of favor as more outcome data becomes available over time. Health care needs to adapt through innovation, regulation, and legislation. A particular category of procedure should not be added as a constitutional amendment.

Many medications have been approved, then banned when post-marketing data show higher rates of adverse effects than previously recognized. For instance, thalidomide, Darvon, high dose estrogens, and Avandia had devastating effects before being taken off the market. Countless medical devices have also been pulled off the market, such as the Dalkon shield contraceptive and silicon breast implants. Likewise, broad surgical procedures have been discontinued, in many cases, when safer alternatives have become available—amputations, total gastrectomy, pelvic exoneration, radical mastectomy, and lobotomy.

As abortion has become more popular over the past 40 years, with over 1 million abortions performed yearly in the United States, many physical and emotional adverse effects have emerged. Change in technique have sought to counteract adverse effects, but information is still needed to ensure women's health safety. Reporting on clinic safety and abortion outcomes, and holding abortionists liable, are extremely lax in Maryland. Making abortion a constitutional right, with taxpayer funding is far too broad for a surgical procedure. It should be handled legislatively, with the ability to deal with the many complex aspects based on emerging information.

For these reasons I feel that HB1171 is not in the best interest of the people and I ask the committee members to give it an unfavorable report.

Sandra M. Nettina

