

Health and Government Operations Committee HB735 - UNFAVORABLE

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

Please give HB735, the forced-birth bill, an Unfavorable report.

This bill clearly insinuates that women have no intelligence or ability to make decisions for themselves. The expectation that pregnant women¹ be forced to donate their organs against their will for 9 month periods of time is appalling.

Stripping women of the right to bodily autonomy to make them take on risks to their mental and physical health (sometimes resulting in lifetime medical issues,) put them through what can be excruciating pain, force them to pay for medical care, put their jobs at risk, disrupt their family, and potentially overburden them when they already have too much on their plate is unacceptable.

Pregnancies should be wanted. In a better world, healthcare would be free. In an ideal world, our country would actually be supportive of having children - such as by providing a year of paid leave, free childcare, clean water and air, safe homes and neighborhoods, and better schools. Are the sponsors of this bill willing to vote for the tax increases that would require? Or are they only interested in pushing women back to the 1950s so that we lose the power we've gained (which is still unequal to the power of white men)?

Among 11 developed countries, the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate. Thirty-eight countries do better with children's survival, health, education, and nutrition. What are the sponsors of this bill doing to address these issues? Why is it okay to deny pregnant women equal rights, but not to pay more in taxes? Why do the sponsors think a fetus is more important than those who have been born - adult or child?

I urge an unfavorable report on this sickening bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD

¹ So pregnant transgender people CAN have abortions without meeting all of these requirements? Are the sponsors just in denial about the existence of transgender people? Or are they okay with transgender people not having babies because they fear that being transgender is hereditary?