

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 violence in our state Constitution.

Very plainly, abortion procedures are violent, always deadly to the preborn child, and harmful to women. Abortion is not healthcare when it ends the life of defenseless human beings. We can all at least agree that we can offer better than abortion, but an amendment of this nature permanently traps Maryland into the most extreme positions on abortion across the entire country.

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. Resources like this are easily found through state programs and through independent non-profits like those listed within the Standing With You resource database: www.StandingWithYou.org. These are resources all Marylanders can agree to support.

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 public funding for abortion. But this Abortion amendment would take the power to regulate abortion away from our elected representatives.

This legislation is dangerous for women and would remove all existing health and safety measures for pregnant women. This legislation grossly ignores the freedom and values of many Marylanders who are morally opposed to abortion by now forcing Maryland taxpayers to fully fund all abortions.

Passing this legislation would be detrimental to Maryland, causing division. Despite public opinion which favors abortion restrictions, Maryland already has some of the most permissive abortion laws in the nation. An amendment of this nature would now permanently lock in these extreme standards that already do not reflect public opinion. 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). This amendment is deceptive and would trap Marylanders such as myself into supporting abortion through all nine months at the expense of their hard-earned tax dollars. 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.

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

I am a member of the DMV chapter of an organization called Rehumanize International - a nonpartisan, nonsectarian group that works to defend and protect all human life from conception to natural death, regardless of political party or religious belief (or lack thereof). We oppose the death penalty, unjust war, police brutality, you name it - but first and foremost, we oppose abortion, because if the preborn do not have a right to life, then there are no other lives to protect. I dearly love my state of Maryland. I lived out of state for six years, and I always expressed deep pride for my home state and everything about it. Sadly, one thing that does NOT make me proud of Maryland, and instead deeply saddens me, is our commitment to a false idea of "women's rights," when in reality, abortion deeply harms women and their preborn children. Enshrining abortion in the state constitution of Maryland would be a disgrace and a permanent stain on the legacy of this beautiful state.

Please do not enshrine abortion violence 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.