

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Abortion Amendment, House Bill 1171 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty. This amendment has extreme and permanent consequences for everyone in Maryland.

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.

This legislation is dangerous for women and would remove all existing health and safety measures for pregnant women such as fetal homicide laws. This legislation grossly ignores the religious 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. This amendment is deceptive and would trap Marylanders into supporting abortion through all nine months at tax-payer expense. In fact, it goes against the preferences of the majority of Americans, according to the Marist Poll, January 2022, that favor some restrictions on abortion after the first trimester (71%), oppose public funding for abortion (54%), and prefer policies to protect the lives of both mothers and preborn children(81%).

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.

As a father of three, leader in a church body, and firm believer in the health and safety of all people, I urge you to oppose House Bill 1171 and this extreme amendment to our Constitution.



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