



Abortion Amendment, House Bill 1171 - **Oppose**  
Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty

My name is Kristen Day, and I serve as the Executive Director of the DFLA Education Fund. Our organization exists to promote a consistent life ethic.

I first and foremost oppose this legislation because of what it will mean for women. It would not change access to abortion in Maryland as abortion was legalized in a 1991 law. The proposed legislation would serve to prop up the abortion industry and all the ways it protects and enshrines the patriarchy. Coercing women's bodies to be more like men's bodies (by not being pregnant) does not advance women's freedom and equality.

Passage of this bill would result in an expensive political campaign to pass a proposed Constitutional Amendment to abortion under the guise of "reproductive freedom."

Women don't have "reproductive freedom" when only one choice, abortion, is promoted as the best solution to an unplanned pregnancy.

Instead of equal pay, maternity leave, and workplace protections, women have been stuck with abortion for decades. Abortion is always a cheaper alternative for employers than truly advancing women in the workplace. Maryland already makes it easier to end preborn lives by not prioritizing solutions to remove barriers to parenthood or address the high abortion rate.

Abortion is also big money for big business. [According to the DHMH – Medical Care Programs Administration](#), in 2016, Maryland spent \$5.3 million of taxpayer funds on abortion.

Maryland's abortion rate is double the national average. Although the neighboring state of Virginia has 1.5 million more people, Maryland's abortion numbers double the Virginia numbers – approximately 30,000 vs. 15,000.

The violence of abortion has not made women more free and equal in the workplace. It is time for a better, different direction. It is time to abandon abortion violence and truly advance women's rights and true reproductive freedom that includes the support, freedom, and choice to become a parent even in the face of a crisis or unplanned pregnancy. I urge the Committee to table this legislation.

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