

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 position 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](http://www.StandingWithYou.org) These are resources all Marylanders can agree to support.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Hlavka