



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chairman
and Members of the
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Members,

RE: HB 181 – Declaration of Rights – Removal of Religious Freedom - OPPOSE

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes HB 181, a Constitutional Amendment to remove any reference to God from the Declaration of Rights embedded in the Constitution of Maryland. This legislation is unnecessary. The Declaration of Rights has served the people of Maryland well for almost 250 years. It does not need to be changed.

The proposed amendment removes the very important, explicit protection against the establishment of religion as follows:

“Nothing shall prohibit or require the making reference to belief in, reliance upon, or invoking the aid of God or a Supreme Being in any government or public document, proceeding, activity, ceremony, school, institution, or place. Nothing in this article shall constitute an establishment of religion.”

To change the Declaration of Rights to remove all references to God, a higher power than human beings, promotes an egocentric society and is harmful to the harmony and peace of the people of our State.

Please give HB 181 and UNFAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women