



February 21, 2023

House Bill 705

Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 705 – Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom. Subject to the approval of Maryland voters in the next general election, this proposed constitutional amendment will establish an individual’s fundamental right to reproductive freedom and will declare that this right is not to be impeded by the State.

Less than one year ago, the Supreme Court ruled a person’s right to access abortion now depends on your zip code. Republican controlled states quickly took away the right to choose, and we have since heard horrifying stories of women and girls who have been unable to access the care they need because of their elected officials. Although Maryland is safer than states like Texas, West Virginia, and Mississippi, we must still take this step to permanently secure the right to reproductive liberty.

After the Supreme Court’s decision, the Anne Arundel County Council successfully passed a resolution in support of women’s right to safe reproductive healthcare. And as County Executive, I’ve fought to improve the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

This proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution will enable voters to affirm their support for access to abortion care. This is a timely and necessary step to ensure this fundamental right is protected for years to come.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 705.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive