

## OPPOSITION STATEMENT HB705

Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom

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Women and girls deserve better than **HB705**.

Campaign to Protect Women objects to HB705. We ask that the legislators of Maryland immediately cease the promotion and funding of the exploitation of the women and girls of Maryland and the promotion and funding of the killing of their unborn children. Abortion is not a compassionate answer to women and girls facing a crisis pregnancy. It is never compassionate to tell a mother that killing her baby is the answer to her problems. True compassion offers practical and emotional support for women and girls in need as is offered by the many crisis pregnancy centers in Maryland.

**Enshrining abortion in the Maryland Constitution damages women physically, psychologically and emotionally.** If codified as a “right,” abortion is legitimized as healthcare. Abortion is not healthcare. Abortion is not mental healthcare. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing unborn baby. A miscarriage is not abortion – a miscarriage is the loss of a baby after the baby has died naturally in the woman’s body. An ectopic pregnancy is a nonviable pregnancy – the fertilized egg is developing outside of the woman’s uterus and cannot survive. The treatment of miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy is not abortion. The treatment to remove the remains of the lost pregnancy may or may not involve surgery and is for the health and wellbeing of the mother to prevent complications including infection and death. Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman or girl and kills the growing human being. Abortion unnaturally ends the pregnancy and the woman or girl becomes the mother of a dead child. She will carry that with her the rest of her life. Both surgical and chemical abortion put the women and girls at risk of serious injury up to and including death. Those risks include hemorrhage, ruptured uterus, lacerated vagina, lacerated cervix, loss of fertility, sepsis and death. Chemical abortions are 4 times more dangerous than surgical abortions. With the passage of the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022, the physician requirement was removed from abortion care. That act and the increasing use of chemical abortion has removed any pretense of healthcare from abortion. With missions like *Silent No More Awareness* (SilentNoMoreAwareness.org) and *Rachel’s Vineyard* (rachelvineyard.org), we can read testimonies of the damaging psychological affects of abortion including depression, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and failed relationships.

**Enshrining abortion in the Maryland Constitution will make it easier for women and girls to be exploited.** It will be easier for employers to pressure women into reimbursement for abortion over the more expensive maternity leave and maternity care. This promotion and protection of abortion makes it easier for sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue victimizing women and girls. Telaboration has made the lethal chemical abortion drugs widely accessible. Prescribing via telehealth makes it easy for an abuser to obtain the abortion drugs and force them on women and girls. It is no longer required to have a physician’s examination to obtain the abortion pills which removes the verification of gestational age and confirmation of pregnancy and testing for ectopic pregnancy.

**Abortion is black genocide.** From the beginning, the abortion industry has targeted poor and minority communities. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, referred to many in society as “weeds” that needed to be eliminated. Abortion centers are most often placed in poor and minority communities. In 1939, Margaret Sanger introduced her “Negro Project” to set up protocols to stop blacks from reproducing “carelessly and recklessly” (<https://www.nationalblackprolifeunion.com>). She recruited black ministers for her plan carefully disguising her true intentions, and today, the women and girls of the black community continue to be targeted.

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**The language of the bill indicates other vague intentions.** “Person” is used instead of the word “woman.” “Including but not limited to” is a broad and vague phrase used in this bill. Women and men are not interchangeable. Our biology tells us whether we are male or female. Every cell in our body contains the blueprint of a person in the DNA. Presence of the “Y” chromosome reveals you are a male. Lack of the “Y” chromosome reveals you are a female. Removing the distinctions is an affront to women as well as men. This vague language seems to indicate that other surgeries related to the reproductive organs would be included as a right. No one is prevented from obtaining a vasectomy, tubal ligation or hysterectomy, and those surgeries do not involve the killing of another human being. Other surgeries that involve treatment of the reproductive organs for diseases such as cancer are not prohibited.

Campaign to Protect Women recognizes that this amendment could also make it a “right” to receive gender reassignment drugs and surgeries. With the age of consent to seek mental health care lowered to age 12, this is dangerous for children and rife for exploitation. Campaign to Protect Women sees this as another attack on women and girls as there has been a dramatic increase in girls seeking to transition to boys. First, it is cruel to counsel someone that they can become the opposite sex to their biology. It is cruel to medicalize people for the rest of their life with drugs that increase their health risks, cause sterility and likely shorten their life. Maryland should protect women and girls from having their bodies mutilated by the removal of healthy organs and tissue from mastectomies and hysterectomies.

**The majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.** The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, reject the use of taxpayer money for abortion. Codifying abortion as a right will lead to further subsidizing of abortion. Maryland is one of 4 states that requires its residents to pay for abortion. The money provided will only increase. 82% of Americans favor the use of public funds be directed to support pregnant women and girls toward a healthy pregnancy and delivery outcome and include programs for parenting and material support.

Women and girls and all Marylanders deserve better than laws that promote the killing of the most vulnerable of our residents. Maryland laws should respect and protect human life and the very special ability of women and girls to bear children. Campaign to Protect Women urges the Maryland General Assembly to reject this legislation, **HB705**.