



Testimony on HB705/SB798  
Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom  
**Position: Favorable**

To Chair Pena- Melnyk and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee;  
To Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the country, representing over 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington DC, including members who provide reproductive healthcare. We urge a **favorable** report on this bill to enshrine the Right to Reproductive freedom in our State.

Our right to reproductive freedom is under attack by the Supreme Court and nationwide, so the State of Maryland must act immediately to protect this right in our Constitution. Whether it is contraception, abortion, or family planning – these are personal healthcare decisions to be made between a patient and their healthcare provider, not the government or an employer.

As a union of healthcare workers, the vast majority of whom are women, we believe everyone should have the right to reproductive freedom. Furthermore, our union recognizes that there are transgender men and nonbinary people who can get pregnant, and they also deserve the right to reproductive freedom. We appreciate that the language of this bill is inclusive of all genders.

This bill to amend the State Constitution will ensure a healthier and happier Maryland for all. Please vote **YES** on this bill.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones  
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