

I am writing to oppose the inclusion of SB0798 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom in the state constitution, as this amendment would enshrine abortion as a "fundamental right" and would require Maryland taxpayers to fund all abortions, regardless of whether a majority of Marylanders support this or not. The amendment would also force healthcare providers to participate in abortions, which could violate their rights of conscience and religious freedom. Additionally, if this bill passes, it could infringe on the freedom of speech guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution by preventing future attempts to pass legislation that could save lives, such as partial-birth abortion or dismemberment bans.

The right to reproductive freedom undermines the sanctity of human life. Life begins at conception and every human life should be protected and valued from that moment forward. Therefore, I believe that the right to reproductive freedom, including access to abortion, is morally wrong and should be restricted or prohibited altogether.

The right to reproductive freedom can have negative societal consequences, such as a decline in birth rates or a breakdown in family structures. I believe that promoting reproductive freedom can lead to a culture of individualism, where personal desires and goals are prioritized over the greater good of society. I believe that policies that promote traditional family values and encourage procreation are better for the long-term stability and well-being of society.

Maryland's current laws on abortion are already very permissive. The Maryland Freedom of Choice Act of 1991 allows for abortion-on-demand up until birth, which is extreme compared to other states. Additionally, Maryland is one of only four states that requires taxpayers to pay for other people's abortions, and one of only three states that shields abortion providers from liability by refusing to report abortion data to the CDC. As a result, Maryland is not addressing important issues related to women's reproductive health, such as the risks of abortion-related maternal injury or death, future miscarriage, pre-term birth, or loss of fertility.

If this amendment were to be enacted, it could threaten the existence of pro-life pregnancy centers and could take away medical providers' rights of conscience. However, Maryland lawmakers still could pass laws to protect women's health during pregnancy, to restrict abortion after viability, and to ban public funding for abortion. This proposed Abortion Amendment would remove the ability of elected representatives to regulate abortion and would force taxpayers to fully fund all abortions, which is extreme and should not be included in the state constitution. Therefore, I urge you to issue an unfavorable report on SB0798.

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