

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 798
Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom**

**Senate Finance Committee
March 1, 2023**

**Cheryl Bost
President**

The Maryland State Education Association stands in strong support of Senate Bill 798, a constitutional amendment protecting Marylanders' right to reproductive freedom. MSEA appreciates Speaker Jones' commitment to protecting the rights to liberty and equality under the Maryland constitution.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Education is a field dominated by people who can bear children, and we believe these decisions should be best left up to families and individuals. NEA has long supported the right of our members to choose whether to have children and how to have a family, with an official resolution saying, "The National Education Association believes in family planning, including the right to reproductive freedom."

MSEA strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 798.