

I am writing to ask you to OPPOSE SB 798, which would submit an amendment to the voters of Maryland that attempts to ensure a fundamental right to abortion in our State constitution throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

A Marist Poll in 2022 showed that 81% of Americans prefer policies to protect the lives of both mothers and preborn children. This includes 79% of Democrats, 88% of Republicans, and 78% of Independents. The verbatim statement in the poll to which that 81% agreed reads as follows:

*"It is possible to have laws which protect both the health and well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn."*

Our state needs to support both women and their children, starting at conception. This includes life-affirming healthcare and practical resources to address basic needs such as food, housing, work and childcare that help them and us embrace the gift of life.

In a 2005 study, 73% of women undergoing an abortion said not being able to afford a baby now was a reason for the abortion. That number rose to 81% for women below the federal poverty line.

Rather than pushing for unregulated abortion at any stage of pregnancy, Maryland should enact laws that make pregnancy support and resources more affordable, available, and accessible in every community, particularly in those which are underserved and over-represented in abortion data and statistics.

I also want to add that I am a committed advocate for ecology, volunteer with ecology advocacy groups, and do an extensive amount of reading on environmental issues. As a result, I have come to believe that it is our responsibility as humans to be good stewards of everything in nature.

Developing life in the womb cannot be excluded from that responsibility, and requires excellent stewardship as well. I ask for an unfavorable report on SB798.