

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jonathan Roiz, Founder and President of The Hope Movement, a 501 (c)(3) United States recognized non-profit Christian organization. A multitude of citizens of this great State of Maryland are united in one movement, Abolish Abortion Maryland (AAM), which is part of The Hope Movement and local churches. We are testifying before you as a representative of the people (us) and God. Yes, the sovereign all-powerful, omnipresent, all-knowing God has placed you in your position for His Word states, "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1-2). Therefore as a representative of the people under the authority of God, you are obligated to stand up against that which contradicts God's Word and will. Regardless of what society and culture states are true and correct, God's Word is the final authority that you are to follow as a guide and obey.

A series of man-made laws are trying to be passed in the State of Maryland under your time in office, laws that rebel against the Word of God. These laws call which God declares evil good and what God declares good evil. Regardless of your spiritual or religious beliefs, you know there is a God, and we all will stand before Him to answer for every thought, word, and deed. God is holy and just, and He has given all humanity laws to obey. Those who break His law and do not repent will face God, and just as we expect you to show justice, God will deliver justice and judge righteously based on what you have done according to His law. The law of God says, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13).

SB798 states that this is an ACT, a "Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom." Think about that title alone, examining definitions from a dictionary. Right, "a moral or legal entitlement," to Reproductive "the act or process of reproducing, specifically: the process by which...give rise to offspring and which fundamentally consists of the segregation of a portion of the parental body by a sexual process and its subsequent growth and differentiation into a new individual," Freedom "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint."

Under SB798, you are attempting to impose an unconstitutional amendment to redefine moral entitlement to allow people to murder a baby in the womb without consequences. It is well documented biblically and scientifically that life starts a conception. A study that surveyed more than 5000 biologists from a variety of political affiliations and religious/personal beliefs found that 95% of respondents affirmed the biological view that a human's life begins at fertilization¹. You also know people don't get abortions at conception but after the child is developed and being developed. Under SB798, you state "that every person, as a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom." First I draw your attention to several court cases that further defined "person" and confirmed their equal protection under the U.S. Constitution and God.

- In *Levy v. Louisiana*, the Court found that "illegitimate children are not 'nonpersons.' They are humans, alive, and have their being."²

¹ Jacobs, Steven and Jacobs, Steven, Biologists' Consensus on 'When Life Begins' (July 25, 2018). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3211703> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3211703>

² *Levy v. Louisiana*, 391 U.S. 68, 70 (1968)

- In Plyler v. Doe, the Supreme Court held that illegal immigrants are also persons: "[whatever [one's] status is under the immigration laws, an alien is surely a 'person' in any ordinary sense of that term."³
- In Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health, the Supreme Court held that the gravely ill and chronically incompetent are not nonpersons.⁴
- In Youngberg v. Romeo, the Supreme Court held that mental retardation resulting in commitment to a state institution does not deprive one of liberty accorded persons under the Fourteenth Amendment.⁵
- People of African descent were regarded not as persons entitled to Constitutional protection. That's why slave owners felt no shame in saying, "My property, my choice" until the introduction of the Fourteenth Amendment.⁶
- If someone murders a mother and unborn baby, the law will charge the perpetrator with double homicide.

From these cases, we can conclude that a person, as defined by the Fourteenth Amendment, includes all living beings regardless of legitimacy, legality, mental capacity, or confinement.

In each case, the denominator that confirmed their protection under the Fourteenth Amendment protection as they were 1) biologically alive and 2) genetically human. This definition of a Fourteenth Amendment person then relates to the fundamental right to life established by the substantive due process clause so that anyone meeting these requirements should not be deprived of life without due process of law and that the fundamental right at issue is the right to life. The wording of this amendment and the intent are deceptive and is a blasphemous act against God and a murderous act of His image bearers.

During weeks 6-11, the most dramatic transformation of the entire pregnancy occurs. By that stage, all the baby's organs have been formed, and the tiny person is still less than 3 inches long. Yes, at the time when the average abortion procedure is conducted, this baby, not a clump of cells but a person with organs, is robbed from the womb and murdered. If you allow this law to pass, you will answer to God for the murder of these children.

How about a heartbeat bill? Well, at only 21 days after conception, the baby's heart begins beating, and at 40 days, brainwaves can be measured. The baby can move and respond to stimulation at 6 weeks and can suck its thumb at 8 weeks. Imagine. Within weeks, when most are considering an abortion, the baby can feel and respond to the actions the mother is making on behalf of his or her body. Abortionists are notorious for lying about detecting a heartbeat. We have spent years outside of abortion mills, and we can testify to you countless stories of women who were offered assistance shouting, "Want to watch me kill my baby." One story was about a young woman without ID who came to the abortion mill. She had a sonogram and saw her baby was a girl and her aunt told us the baby was sucking her thumb, but the Whole Women's Clinic

³ Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202, 202 (1982)

⁴ Cruzan v. Missouri Dept. of Health, 497 U.S. 261, 286-87 (1990)

⁵ Youngberg v. Romeo, 457 U.S. 307 (1982)

⁶ Id.

in Baltimore ripped that thumb off that precious baby's hand. If you allow these laws to pass, the little finger is pointing at you, and the wrath of God will be upon you.

At 12 weeks, the baby has eyelids, ears, toes, a fully-formed mouth, fingernails, and fingerprints. Those fingerprints make them unique, created and designed by God for a purpose. Those prints are forever imprinted in the memory of the mother's womb. The 12-week old baby is 3.4 inches long, has all essential organs, a working circulatory system, the sex is distinguishable, red blood cells are being produced in the liver, and the baby can make a fist with his or her fingers. You may be thinking this is religious propaganda. This is not only Biblical, but even secular science backs up this evidence. National Geographic's "In the Womb" explains that the "moment of conception [is] when an individual's unique set of DNA is created, a human signature that never existed before and will never be repeated."

If this bill is approved, it will lead to the murder of thousands of babies, destroying generations. The 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution reads, "No state shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." The Declaration of Independence declares "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. An article found on the official National Library of Medicine U.S. government website states "As a constitutional principle, the Fourteenth Amendment is not confined to its historical origin and purpose, but is available now to protect all human beings, including all unborn human beings. The Supreme Court can define "person" to include all human beings, born and unborn...Science, history and tradition establish that unborn humans are, from the time of conception, both persons and human beings, thus strongly supporting an interpretation that the unborn meet the definition of "person" under the Fourteenth Amendment."⁷ The slave owners in time past declared a person as non-human, as their property. Regardless of the law of the land slavery was a brutal crime against humanity and you have done the same with children in the womb.

I urge you to repent and change your mind on this amendment because innocent blood will be on your hands, and you will stand accountable before Almighty God and give an account of why you supported this bill. We are calling on you as a representative of God and the people to vote against any pro-abortion (Murder) law and make a stand to abolish abortion. If you do not, we will work hard to vote you out of the office, and you will stand before God on the day of judgment. The Word of God says, "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2). Chose this day who you will serve. When leaders in the Bible tried to silence God's people, the church, the leader said these words which are true today "for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" (Acts 5:38-39).

You might think you are doing good by helping women to murder their children. But what about the little women in the womb? You are required by God and the law of the land to provide equal rights for all life. Because you are made in the image of God just like those precious babies, we love you enough to warn you, for we not only desire the best for these babies' lives but also for your eternal soul. Now think about your life privately and politically. How many lies have you told in your life? Have you ever stolen anything? Have you used God's name in vain? Jesus said,

⁷ Lugosi CI. Conforming to the rule of law: when person and human being finally mean the same thing in Fourteenth Amendment jurisprudence. *Issues Law Med.* 2006 Fall-2007 Spring;22(2-3):119-303. PMID: 17243379.

“Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Have you looked at someone with lust? Based on God’s law, will you be guilty on Judgement Day? If you have done these things, God sees you as a lying, thieving, fornicating, blasphemous adulterer at heart, and the Bible warns that God will punish you in a terrible place called Hell. Yet God, who is “rich in mercy,” sent His Son to suffer and die on the cross for guilty sinners. We broke God’s law, and Jesus paid the fine. Jesus bore the wrath of God, the punishment we deserved as our substitute. That means God can legally dismiss our case. He can commute our death sentence: “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) and “whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Jesus rose from the dead and defeated death so that we could be freed from sin and death. Today is the day to repent of your sins and trust in Jesus, and God will give you eternal life as a free gift. Show your gratitude by voting against this amendment and fight to abolish abortion. Show God how much you love Him by obeying His commands. Find a Bible-believing church, be baptized, and study the Bible so that you may grow in spiritual maturity and allow God to use your life and career for good and His glory.

We encourage you to take 4 minutes of your time to watch this short film called *The Procedure* https://youtu.be/nd_9y1-L60c and meditate upon it when you cast your vote.
