

I strongly oppose SB0798/HB0705 as these pieces of legislature would force Maryland taxpayers to pay for ALL ABORTIONS when most Marylanders believe there should be at least some reasonable restrictions on abortion. The *Maryland Freedom of Choice Act* (1991) already allows abortion-on-demand, for any reason and up until birth. Maryland is also failing to address women's reproductive health and the incidents of abortion-related maternal injury and death by refusing to report abortion data to the CDC.

These bills would also require physicians and other healthcare providers to participate in abortion, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion.

In passing this legislation, the Maryland government will be infringing on the Freedom of Speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, by barring all future attempts to pass lifesaving legislation such as partial birth abortion or dismemberment bans SB798/HB705, if enacted would threaten to close pro-life pregnancy centers and deny medical providers their rights of conscience. Under Supreme Court precedent, Maryland lawmakers still have the right to pass laws to protect women's health throughout pregnancy, to restrict abortion after viability, and to ban ALL public funding for abortion. But this proposed Abortion Amendment would take the power to regulate abortion away from our elected representatives and force Maryland taxpayers to fully fund ALL ABORTIONS.

This extreme legislation has no place in Maryland, I beg you to OPPOSE SB798/HB705.