

# BRIAN GRIFFITHS

February 28, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I write to you today in **opposition to** Senate Bill 798 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom. This amendment would be a complete insult to the concept of the Declaration of Rights and the freedom of each and every Marylander.

There is a certain absurdity to this amendment and the intention of the sponsors to include it in the Declaration of Rights. For the Declaration of Rights begins:

*We, the People of the State of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare:*

Maryland, per the Declaration of Rights, as a state is “grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties”. And yet the sponsors want to completely go against the civil liberties of the unborn, the religious liberties of medical personnel, and the laws of God Himself by instituting a right to kill in the Declaration of Rights.

His Excellency, The Most Reverent William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, recently wrote:

*“Science is touted by some as the sole source of truth – except when science yields some inconvenient indicators. Very early on, the child developing in the mother’s womb exhibits unmistakable signs of humanity: a distinctive DNA, brainwaves, the ability to feel pain, human features. Science would lead us to conclude that the child in the womb is not a thing but a person, indeed a vulnerable person in need of our protection.”*

**You cannot be for human rights while continuing to promote and support the freedom to kill the innocent.**

SB798

POSITION: Opposed

As Archbishop Lori continued:

*“Violence against the unborn and violence against the chronically and terminally ill are indeed manifestations of the culture of death – the cheapening of human life. Is it any wonder that we see carnage on our streets – more than 700 killed on the streets of Baltimore in the last two years? Were those 700 persons or things?”*

This proposed amendment is an insult to each and every Marylander, an insult to science and an insult to the very laws of nature. The only one to be truly pro-woman, pro-family, and pro-science is to be pro-life. I strongly urge you to **vote no** on **Senate bill 798**.

Respectfully.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R. C. A." followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.