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SB798 – OPPOSED

I am against proposed bill SB798 and ask that you give it an unfavorable report.

Please do not vote for SB798 to enshrine abortion through birth in our state constitution.

By making abortion a “fundamental right” Maryland taxpayers will be forced to pay for ALL ABORTIONS, when in fact a majority of Marylanders believe there should be at least some reasonable restrictions on abortion.

This amendment also would compel physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers to participate in abortion, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion.

It is already difficult to find an OBGYN in this state for reproductive health and women’s health care, this law would compel more doctors and nurses to leave the state leaving many Marylanders lost in seeking medical care when needed.

Finally, by passing this bill, the Maryland legislature 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. We should be able to agree that children in the womb deserve better medical care than being partially born then having their brain sucked out of their bodies or being dismembered because of “choice” of the mother. Children as young as 24 weeks gestation can be born and survive.

Maryland law already is extreme on abortion. The Maryland Freedom of Choice Act (1991) allows abortion-on-demand, for any reason and up until birth. Maryland is one of only four states that forces taxpayers to pay for other people’s abortions. Maryland is one of only three states that shield abortionists from liability by refusing to report abortion data to the CDC. As a result, Maryland is failing to address women’s reproductive health and the incidents of abortion-related maternal injury and death or risks of future miscarriage, pre-term birth or loss of fertility.

SB798, if enacted by ballot, would threaten to close pro-life pregnancy centers and deny medical providers their rights of conscience. Our local resource center, The Catherine Foundation, helps women and men to become better prepared parents when they find themselves in a situation where pregnancy was not in their plans. They help new moms and dads to take on the challenges and rise to the occasion to parent their child by providing material and emotional support free of charge.

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.

Such extreme legislation has no place in our State Constitution. I urge you to please issue an unfavorable report on SB798.

Sincerely,
Crystal Kijesky
LaPlata, MD