



Testimony submitted on behalf of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons-
respectfully submitted by Dr. James Kelly to the Maryland General Assembly 2-28-2023

HB705/SB798 is not about protecting woman-it is really about **denying Marylanders of their fundamental constitutional rights, taxpayer payment coercion and increasing profits for the abortion industry.** **AAPS opposes HB705/SB798.**

I am a physician and psychiatrist. Over the last 37 years I treated many women who have had abortions. The majority deeply regret their abortions, many report that they felt coerced. Many suffer from post abortion stress syndrome and develop major depression, self-injurious behaviors such as cutting, scratching, banging, burning and damaging their bodies. Many bury their emotions under drugs and alcohol, commit crimes to fund their drug habits, go in and out of jails and prisons. Many overdose on drugs due to their abortion remorse.

By changing induced abortion into a so-called “constitutional right” Marylanders become **SLAVES** of coercion by being forced to **violate their conscience rights** guaranteed by the US Constitution to support killing babies and damaging women.

HB705/SB798 forces physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to become **MEDICAL SLAVES** by trying to **force them** to participate in abortions, in violation of their rights of conscience and free exercise of religion. Maryland already is only one of three states to shield abortionists from liability and refuses to report abortion data to the CDC- which endangers the lives and health of

women. Giving abortionists more rights and **attacking the rights** of good doctors and nurses - is what this bill is really about.

HB705/SB798 violates the Freedom of Speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and takes the power to regulate abortion away from our elected representatives by barring all future legislative protections and reforms.

Maryland law already is very extreme on abortion and allows abortion-on-demand, for any reason and up until birth. There is no need to now change our state constitution. This amendment is dangerous, **unconstitutional**, coercive and divisive and should never be in our great Maryland Constitution.

Please vote **NO** on HB705/SB798.