

Written testimony opposing SB798 in the Maryland General Assembly 2023

Maryland does not need a constitutional amendment enshrining the right to an abortion; such rights were already enshrined in state law decades ago. More importantly, most Marylanders – including me, a registered Democrat and longtime resident of Montgomery County -- would prefer a middle course on the abortion issue.

The proposed amendment would hurt the women of Maryland, because it distracts from **what women truly need – social programs that address the root causes of abortion and give women the resources they need to have real choices**. Women who have resources have a choice; women without resources have abortion. **Abortion is a poor substitute for the true advancement of women.**

Rather than this amendment, **we need cultural change, so that abortion becomes extremely rare and even unthinkable**. Abortion is a violent act that harms our society and our democracy. I oppose this unnecessary bill.