

Maryland Legislative Lobby for Life, Inc.

P.O. Box 16662

Essex, Maryland 21221

Speaking up for life since 1982

Unfavorable

Senate Bill 798 Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Constitutional Amendment

Finance Committee

Senator Griffith, Senator Klausmeier, Members of the Committee, good afternoon. My name is Sheila Wharam, Secretary of Maryland Legislative Lobby for Life speaking in opposition to putting killing and mutilation into the state constitution.

On page 1, line 2 and with lines 19 and 20, the bill speaks about the right to end one's pregnancy. Every pregnancy ends; there is no pregnancy that does not end. The point of the bill is not to end a pregnancy. It is to kill a child and to put child killing into the most fundamental document which holds us together in a union, our Constitution. The original authors of our Constitution began this state with a declaration of rights:

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

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:

Article 1. That all Government of right originates from the People, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Killing children is not for the good of the whole. It violates that original compact, takes away any idea of permanent security and safety of everyone else's life, and is contrary to the high ideals of the Maryland Constitution's Declaration of Rights, "**Article 16- Avoidance of sanguinary laws; cruel and unusual punishment.**

"That sanguinary Laws (the death penalty) **ought to be avoided as far as it is consistent with the safety of the State;** and **no Law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made in any case, or at any time, hereafter."**

A newborn baby does not threaten the safety of the state, and abortion, which barbarically tears him limb from limb or scalds him to death with a salt solution, or

starves him to death, inflicts cruel and unusual pains, violating the Constitution's Article 16.

In addition to putting the killing of the innocents into the Constitution, the "Reproductive Freedom" of "Persons" could include minors consenting for their own freedom from ever reproducing and having their healthy body parts surgically removed or chemically damaged (puberty blockers at least one of which is a strong anti-cancer medicine or cross sex hormones, boys on estrogen, girls on testosterone.)

Note: 1. **Person** and **individual** includes males

2. Nothing here about those who have reached the age of majority

3. **Right to Reproductive Freedom** is **not limited** to aborting a child

4. The state would not consider self or other mutilation by minors a matter of state interest since the Comprehensive Health Education Framework adopted by the Department of Education in 2021 includes acceptance of the possibility that a boy can be born inside a girl's body or a girl can be born inside a boy's body. This is taught in the Comprehensive Health Education Framework every year from the kindergarten year and up.

5. Therefore this amendment would protect the right of minors to destroy their reproductive capacity under the "right to reproductive freedom" found in this Constitutional Amendment.

We ask you to give an unfavorable vote to this amendment which would open our youth to such harm both those who are born, and those who are unborn.

Our Constitution thanks Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties. Let us do the same and renew that original compact so that, as children of the same Father, we support each other in our joys and in our hardships so that every woman knows she is valued and supported, and so is her baby and every troubled child is helped. We ask you to vote against this amendment which would put cruel killing and mutilation, into the Constitution, violating both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution.

Thank you,
Sheila Wharam,
Secretary, MLLL



