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**Support**  
**SB 798 – Right to Reproductive Freedom**  
February 28th, 2023

My name is Charlene Rock-Foster, and I support SB 798 – Right to Reproductive Freedom. This bill would ensure the constitutional rights of Maryland to reproductive freedom. This bill is very personal to me because of my own experience making a decision about my own reproductive freedom.

In September of 2009, I was informed by my Ob/Gyn that I was pregnant; this after I noticed a month without a menstrual cycle. At the time I was 42 years old, got married in July of that same year, which that union gave me two bonus children—one boy who had graduated from high school and was going away to college, and one girl who was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. My family was complete, with both children embracing me as their second mother.

We were dealing with the heavy financial responsibilities of getting one child through college with another one in high school, preparing to attend college, on top of running a household where at the time the recession impacted me and my husband's income. I told my husband of the news and we had a very long talk about our family planning. In the end, we choose not to have a third child. At the time I was referred to Planned Parenthood which was one of the medical services that was able to do the abortion surgery with me being eight weeks into my pregnancy. My husband was with me for the surgery and was very supportive.

Over 10 years later after my abortion my children are grown, living very productive lives. My husband and I are officially empty nesters still in love with each other. I do not regret having to make the decision to have an abortion. In my reproductive years, I was treated for uterine cancer, something that is not often seen in women under 25 years old, and I had a miscarriage at 32 years old. I've by choice used various forms of birth control to manage my reproductive health. I'm sharing all of these things to support every person's decision around reproductive freedom and family planning. No one should be put into a position not to make the best reproductive decisions due to interference of other peoples'/entities' beliefs.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB 798. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.