

SB 798 - Unfavorable

Alexandra Rak

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to debate this important topic and I hope that you will all be open-minded about reporting unfavorable a measure that you believe in but would find completely unnecessary for our state.

Maryland already has the most permissive statutes for abortion in the country. The Freedom of Choice Act which gave us our current law was designed to survive the overturn of *Roe vs. Wade* and reality has shown that to be true. Maryland is a safe haven for late-term abortion and abortion doctors are even being encouraged to set up late-term specialty practices here. When I was a pro-choice supporter, I always maintained a limit for elective abortion. Common sense dictates that the state of Maryland should have a limit as well. However, SB 798 would end any reasonable limits now or in the future because once it is a "right" it cannot feasibly be limited. **Indeed, the proponents of the bill told the House HGO Committee they would not support any gestational limitations amended into the proposed amendment.** Frankly, that is barbaric.

It's not just the permissibility of our pro-choice law however, but Maryland is also the home of:

- State-funded abortionist training
- Insurance-required abortion regardless of personal preference
- Requiring millions of taxpayer dollars to go directly to subsidizing abortions annually through the State Medicaid program
- Sheltered funds specifically for Planned Parenthood, should the federal government restrict funding in the future (allowing another government to dictate Maryland spending!)
- Elective abortion up to birth
- Empowering abortionists the power to make a judgment as to whether to notify parents of minors receiving abortions (despite being the financial beneficiaries of the procedure – a clear conflict of interest)
- A separate section of COMAR dedicated to regulating only surgical abortion facilities instead of requiring compliance to surgical center regulations applicable on every other invasive surgical procedure in Maryland,
- Allowing abortion due to any reason whatsoever including race, disability, gender, and other otherwise protected classes in anti-discriminatory law
- Allowing abortion in a manner recent polls have indicated only around 20% of Americans support, including dismemberment abortion for babies capable of feeling pain.

I am not naïve to believe that Maryland will ban abortion anytime soon. My only hope is that you recognize that a human being is being violently extinguished in an abortion procedure and at the very least be pleased enough with the status quo to refrain from expanding our laws any further.

Very sincerely,

Alexandra Rak
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