

Dear Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Cherilyn Holloway, and I serve as President of Pro-Black Pro-Life, Established in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd. PBPL is an educational nonprofit organization with a specialization in abortion, and racial justice. Our vision Specializing in initiating tough conversations surrounding racial equity beginning from the moment of conception.

At PBPL we desire that the Black community for action regarding the issue of life and ultimately, transform thought.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony against House Bill Number 705, "Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom." HB0705 will codify abortion access at any time during pregnancy for any reason. This totally disregards the humanity, dignity, and value of the developing fetus, even in the days or weeks prior to birth. Abortion in Maryland effects the population of the African American community. It's unapologetic hold in the Black community, in which is described as access to low economic communities, unfairly pits Black women and their financial situations against their unborn children. Providing abortions for Black women in poverty is a "downstream solution" to an upstream problem. Helping these women out of poverty would inevitably help them not sacrifice their children for their freedom.

Abortions not only abort Black babies, but they also are compliant in the deaths of young Black women at a high rate. In chapter 59, "Maternal Deaths Due to Abortion," names of nearly two hundred women who have died of so-called "safe and legal" abortion are listed. This means that the death rate among minority women who obtain abortions is fully three times higher than that of White women who abort (7.0 per 100,000 abortions for Black women and 2.2 per 100,000 abortions for White women). The death rate among poor minority women may be even higher than this estimate, because such women have been disenfranchised from the system and do not trust attorneys or anything to do with litigation, for good reason and therefore do not press their claims. The races of 118 of these women has been positively identified. The dead women included 42 Blacks, 17 Latinas, 7 Orientals, and 52 Whites. This means that 56 percent of all known legal abortion deaths have occurred among minority women.

For these reason PBPL oppose HB705, this is not a solution to poverty for Black women, and Black women are dying in childbirth and during abortions at a disproportionate rate. It is our goal that Black women, regardless of their economic situation live and thrive with their families.