

Favorable: HB705: Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom

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The Supreme Court overturned **Roe v. Wade** in 2022 and left the decision about abortion to the states. Maryland passed its current abortion law in 1991 and it was approved as a referendum in 1992 by a 2 to 1 margin. We remember voting for that referendum. Now, because of the Dobbs decision in 2022, we should put abortion rights into our constitution.

But we should go further than this and protect all reproductive rights.

Did you know?

The Comstock Act of 1873 was the parent law for many other Comstock Laws which banned the distribution of contraceptives and information about birth control. Doctors could not even **DISCUSS** birth control with their patients. It was finally overturned in 1965 when the Supreme Court ruled in **Griswold v. Connecticut** that married couples have a Constitutional right to privacy that includes the right to use birth control. However, millions of unmarried women were still denied birth control. Finally in 1972 the Supreme Court in **Eisenstadt v. Baird** legalized birth control for unmarried people.

Justice Clarence Thomas has written that **Griswold** should be reconsidered. Maryland needs to protect all reproductive rights.

Therefore, we support HB705 Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom