

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

RE: In Opposition to House Bill HB0871 - Declaration of Rights - Religious Freedom, Religious Tests, and Oaths and Affirmations

March 6, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we are opposed to **Maryland House Bill HB-0871** on both legal and moral grounds. This testimony seeks to express our concerns around **HB-0871**.

HB-0871 seeks to implement an amendment to begin the process of infringing on the Constitutional right for the freedom of religion by attempting to implement a perceived right for “freedom from religion”. We believe the Maryland Constitution, as currently constructed, requires no change so that Marylanders will continue to be able to exercise this long-standing foundational element of our State and our Country. We oppose all efforts to modify the Maryland Constitution and encourage the Committee members to defend references to God and religious freedom in the state of Maryland Declaration of Rights and Constitution.

Respectfully,

Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson
Long-time residents of MD District 17