

**Testimony in Support of HB 705
Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 21, 2023**

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. holds reproductive choice is an important issue to ensure all women have agency over their own bodies and the autonomy to make health decisions for themselves. As the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to support HB 705, a bill that will help enshrine reproductive freedom in the Maryland state constitution. Without federal protections it is up to the states to protect reproductive freedom.

Hadassah has and always will stand unequivocally for reproductive choice and empowering women with the knowledge to make critical health decisions for themselves and their families. Any interference with the doctor-patient relationship – preventing doctors from discussing women's specific concerns, sharing expert medical guidance, or providing necessary care – poses a serious threat to women's health.

Reproductive freedom is critical to women's health and all women should be able to make reproductive health choices based on medical guidance and what they feel is best for their health, families, and future.

We strongly urge you to support HB 705 to protect reproductive freedom.

Thank you,
Kay Schuster and Ellen Sizemore
Co-Presidents, Hadassah Greater Baltimore
P.O. Box 21571
Pikesville, MD 21282-1571
kschuster@hadassah.org
Esizemore@hadassah.org
P 410.484.9590