

## Abortion Amendment, House Bill 705 – Unfavorable Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Liberty

As director of Democrats for Life of Maryland, I stand firmly against HB705. Along with many other pro-life Democrats in our state and our nation, I stand against legislative acts of abortion extremism, such as this attempt to enshrine abortion in our state Constitution. This action is a threat to the conscience rights of medical professionals and medical institutions, and it poses threats to pro-life freedom of speech – including the right to work for future legislative restrictions on abortion, such as prohibiting partial-birth abortions or measures to protect the safety of women from unregulated, unlimited abortion.

As a Montgomery County resident, I already pay for abortion at all 3 levels of government – through federal government grants to Planned Parenthood; through state funding for training of non-physician abortion providers through the Abortion Care Access Act; and lately through my county's supplemental appropriation to put \$1 million into abortion. In addition, the Maryland Department of Health has recently proposed putting an additional \$11 million into Medicaid abortions. But HB705, by declaring abortion a fundamental right, would result in more funding of abortion over time, despite strong taxpayer opposition to funding the violence of abortion.

Where is the balance on this issue? Where is the concern about Maryland's high abortion rate? Maryland is one of only a handful of states which neglect to report abortion data to the CDC, and it now protects abortionists from civil and criminal liability through the Abortion Care Access Act. Where is the attention to and funding for substantive pregnancy aid, such as grants for pro-life pregnancy aid centers and services? Democrats for Life is Pro-Life for the Whole Life, and we invite you to resist abortion extremism and to support real justice for women and their preborn children instead. Prioritize removal of barriers to parenthood faced by women with unexpected pregnancies. Vote no on the euphemistically named Reproductive Liberty bill. Kathy Kelly

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