



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 705: The Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

TO: Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair and members of the
House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Janice Bird, MD Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights

DATE: February 21, 2023

The members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland ask for your support of **HB 705: The Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom**.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith believes in the worth and dignity of all, and the rights to liberty and equality including the fundamental right to reproductive freedom. We affirm that all of our bodies are sacred, and that we are each endowed with the gifts of agency and conscience. Each of us should have the power to decide what does and doesn't happen to our bodies at every moment of our lives because consent and bodily autonomy are holy.

This bill to amend our Maryland Constitution will prohibit the State from directly or indirectly, denying, burdening, or abridging our reproductive health care rights. It ensures that health care providers can offer comprehensive medical care allowing patients to make their own decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy.

Please vote YES for HB 705!

Sincerely,

Janice Bird, MD

UULM Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights