



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chairman
and Members of the
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Members,

RE: **HB 0871** – Declaration of Rights –Religious Freedom, Religious Tests and Oaths - **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes HB 0871, a Constitutional Amendment to remove any reference to God from the Declaration of Rights embedded in the Constitution of Maryland. This legislation is unnecessary. The Declaration of Rights has served the people of Maryland well for almost 250 years. It does not need to be changed.

The proposed amendment removes this very important, explicit protection against the establishment of religion as follows:

“Nothing shall prohibit or require the making reference to belief in, reliance upon, or invoking the aid of God or a Supreme Being in any governmental or public document, proceeding, activity, ceremony, school, institution, or place.”

Removing all references to a higher power than human beings from the Declaration of Rights would demonstrate that Maryland is an egocentric society. Such a move would be harmful to the harmony and peace of the people of our State.

Please give **HB 0871** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women