



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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TESTIMONY FOR HB0705 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Jones et al

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate

Position: FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates for Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values and ensuring human rights for all. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports HB0705.**

We strongly believe that bodily autonomy is a human right. Each and every individual should have the freedom to make their own reproductive choices, including contraception and abortion. The decision by the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v Wade was a deep blow to our fundamental human freedom of bodily autonomy. By ripping away our rights to reproductive choice and abortion care, the Supreme Court significantly limits health care for women, especially low income women, women of color, and most especially Black women. It criminalizes personal health decisions. As interpreted by some states, the loss of Roe v Wade is already forcing women and girls to carry all pregnancies to term, with zero regard for the health of the mother or fetus, without regard for the economic and social needs of the woman and her family, without regard for whether the pregnancy was the result of incest, rape or simple failure of contraceptive measures. States have criminalized miscarriage and fetal death. **THIS IS MALEVOLENT AND UNCONSCIONABLE.** In most of the world, forced pregnancy is considered a human rights violation. As it is.

Some say that abortion is against their religious principles. May we remind the Legislature that the government is not a church. Individuals are free to follow their religious tenets; we are also free to NOT follow someone else's religious beliefs. Not all religions consider contraception or abortion as sins.

We are grateful that the General Assembly passed the Abortion Care Access Act in 2022, and are hopeful we can pass this even more fundamental bill for reproductive freedom. Indivisible

Central Maryland **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the constitutional amendment to enshrine the right to all aspects of reproductive health care in the Maryland Constitution. **We strongly request that the committee give a FAVORABLE report to HB0705, to pass it out of committee, and to urge your colleagues to vote in favor as well.** Thank you.