

***Maryland Legislative Lobby for Life, Inc.***

P.O. Box 16662

Essex, Maryland 21221

Speaking up for life since 1982

Unfavorable

House Bill 705    Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Constitutional Amendment

Health and Government Operations Committee

Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Delegate Kelly, Members of the Committee, good afternoon. My name is Sheila Wharam, Secretary of Maryland Legislative Lobby for Life speaking in opposition to putting killing into the state constitution.

On page 2, line 2 and with lines 4 and 5, the bill speaks about the right to end one's pregnancy. Every pregnancy ends; there is no pregnancy that does not end. The point of the bill is not to end a pregnancy. It is to kill a child and to put child killing into the most fundamental document which holds us together in a union, our Constitution. The original authors of our Constitution began this state with a declaration of rights:

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## DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

*We, the People of the State of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare:*

**Article 1.** That all Government of right originates from the People, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Killing children is not for the good of the whole. It violates that original compact, takes away any idea of permanent security and safety of everyone else's life, and is contrary to the high ideals of the Maryland Constitution's Declaration of Rights, "Article 16- Avoidance of sanguinary laws; cruel and unusual punishment.

"That sanguinary Laws (the death penalty) ought to be avoided as far as it is consistent with the safety of the State; and no Law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made in any case, or at any time, hereafter."

A newborn baby does not threaten the safety of the state, and abortion, which barbarically tears him limb from limb or scalds him to death with a salt solution, or starves him to death, inflicts cruel and unusual pains, violating the Constitution's Article 16.

Our Constitution thanks Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties. Let us do the same and renew that original compact so that, as children of the same Father, we support each other in our joys and in our hardships so that every woman knows she is valued and supported, and so is her baby.

We ask you to vote against this amendment which would put killing, cruel killing, into the Constitution, violating both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution.

Thank you,  
Sheila Wharam,  
Secretary, MLLL

