

17 February 2023

Chairperson Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Room 241

House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: In **OPPOSITION** to HB0705, the Abortion Amendment to our Maryland Constitution.

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Josh Cox, a senior in High School, and son to the former Delegate Dan Cox. I submit this testimony in a humble yet urgent request that you oppose House Bill 705, a constitutional amendment that would make murder a “fundamental right” in our good state of Maryland. The bill speaks of “freedom,” and still nothing could be farther from the truth. Freedom never has, nor ever shall, involve the *right* to trample on another life’s freedom, and a fetus is indeed another life. Modern science has proved this, as you surely know, so to close your eyes and continue believing otherwise is to follow neither science nor freedom, but rather whims and emotional beliefs. Just because a person *believes* murder is right does not make it so.

This bill unashamedly nods in approval as children with disabilities, those such as Down Syndrome, and even those with perfectly healthy minds and bodies, are led to the slaughter; worst of all, they look back with pleading eyes to you, the lawmakers, for they have no voice. When the people of a nation, or a state such as Maryland, begins to raise their heads in pride and think that they are more special, more *precious* than another people group, disaster, chaos, and even genocide ensue. The **humans** stolen from Africa had no voice in the slave trade; the **humans** in the holocaust had no voice; the **humans** in the womb have no voice. But will you one day look back and realize they cried silently all along, “Am I not a man and a brother?” We often look back on the stage of history and wonder how mankind can be so evil. You are on the modern stage of soon to be history, and all future generations are watching. What will you do? Please vote **UNFAVORABLY** for this amendment, HB 705.

Signed,

Joshua William Lewis Cox

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