



UBALT LAW  
Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

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## **FAV – HB 705 – Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom**

February 21, 2023

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

If/When/How – University of Baltimore Law is a student-led organization for lawyering for reproductive justice. Our mission is to transform the law and policy landscape through advocacy, support, and organizing so all people have the power to determine if, when, and how to define, create, and sustain families with dignity and to actualize sexual and reproductive wellbeing on their own terms. This is why we support HB 705 – *Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*.

House Bill 705 enshrines a positive, fundamental right to reproductive freedom in Maryland’s constitution and affords the highest level of legal protection for all persons to self-determine their reproductive lives.

It is not enough to be satisfied with the codification of *Roe*, as current law stands in Maryland. The legal landscape has changed since 1992, and threats to curtail reproductive freedom have become a reality for too many people. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs* and its potential impact to curtail other areas of reproductive liberty and privacy, Maryland must act now to safeguard reproductive freedom for generations to come.

For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on HB 705.