

FAVORABLE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL 705

My name is Melissa Murphy, and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I strongly urge a **favorable report** on House Bill 705. I have been advocating and fighting for reproductive justice my entire adult life. In 2021 I left the professional life I had been building for 15 years and moved to Maryland to pursue my J.D. at the University of Baltimore School of Law. I made this decision in order to further my advocacy for reproductive justice and bodily autonomy for all persons.

The Supreme Court ignored nearly 50 years of precedent in its *Dobbs* decision and as a result stripped women of their bodily autonomy and basic human rights. The fallout of this decision has been detrimental to all women: those who seek to carry a pregnancy to term; those who seek to terminate a pregnancy; and those who seek to prevent a pregnancy.

I believe, along with the majority of this country, that a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality is reproductive freedom. The decision to strip a class of citizens of their liberty is unconstitutional. For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on House Bill 705.

Respectfully,
Melissa Murphy