



TESTIMONY FOR SB0798
Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ferguson

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0798 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Let the voters decide!

Do Marylanders believe that every person, as a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy? Do they agree that the state may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means?

Our members sure hope so, but as this is a democracy, we believe in the power of the vote. In matters of fundamental rights, the voters should have their say.

It is unfortunate in the extreme that we have to bring this to a vote, since it's been settled law for decades, but now that the Supreme Court in their contempt for established precedence and the will the majority has blown up this fundamental right and left it to the states, it is incumbent upon Maryland voters to show that they support women's rights.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.