

BRIAN GRIFFITHS

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

I write to you today in **opposition** of **House Bill 705** Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom. This amendment would be a complete insult to the concept of the Declaration of Rights and the freedom of each and every Marylander.

There is a certain absurdity to this amendment and the intention of the sponsors to include it in the Declaration of Rights. For the Declaration of Rights begins:

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:

Maryland, per the Declaration of Rights, as a state is “grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties”. And yet the sponsors wants to completely go against the civil liberties of the unborn, the religious liberties of medical personnel, and the laws of God Himself by instituting a right to kill in the Declaration of Rights.

You cannot be for human rights while continuing to promote and support the freedom to kill the innocent.

This bill is an insult to each and every Maryland and is an insult to the very laws of nature. I strongly urge you to **vote no** on **House Bill 705**.

Respectfully,

