

SB 914/ HB 1422: Human Relations - Protections Against Discrimination  
- Genetic Procedures: Please SUPPORT this bill!!

Dear Health & Government Operations Committee Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and all other esteemed Committee Members:

I encourage you all to SUPPORT this bill!!

Per the bill's wording: "...AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S REFUSAL TO UNDERGO A GENETIC PROCEDURE..."

This is a very important bill for the health and safety of all people as well as their freedom of choice!!

Please especially note page 3, under "**Article - State Government**", beginning at line 6 (F) "GENETIC MATERIALS" MEANS:

(1) DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID, RIBONUCLEIC ACID, CHROMOSOMES, OR GENES WHICH MAY BE ANALYZED TO:

- (I) DETECT HERITABLE DISEASES OR CONDITIONS;
- (II) IDENTIFY CARRIERS; OR
- (III) ESTABLISH A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS; OR

(2) PROTEINS, ENZYMES, OR OTHER MOLECULES ASSOCIATED WITH A 13 GENETIC PROCESS WHICH MAY BE MODIFIED, REPLACED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, SUPERSEDED, OR BYPASSED IN FUNCTION BY A HEALTH OR MEDICAL PROCEDURE.

(G) "GENETIC PROCEDURE" MEANS A THERAPY, TREATMENT, OR MEDICAL PROCEDURE THAT MAY:

- (1) ADD, REMOVE, ALTER, ACTIVATE, CHANGE, OR CAUSE MUTATION IN AN INDIVIDUAL'S DNA OR OTHER GENETIC MATERIALS; OR
- (2) REPLACE, SUPERSEDE, OR BYPASS A NORMAL FUNCTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S DNA OR OTHER GENETIC MATERIALS."

I, as a private citizen of Maryland, certainly **do not want** an "entity" to be in charge or, or, frankly, anywhere near my DNA, genes, chromosomes, for any reason, but

especially not to detect diseases or conditions or to establish any clinical diagnosis. I would want to be in charge of those things myself, in consultation with my doctors.

I also **do not want** any “entity” to be in charge of, or anywhere near any “genetic procedure” that may “(1) ADD, REMOVE, ALTER, ACTIVATE, CHANGE, OR CAUSE MUTATION”... in my “...DNA OR OTHER GENETIC MATERIALS; OR (2) REPLACE, SUPERSEDE, OR BYPASS A NORMAL FUNCTION OF” my “DNA OR OTHER GENETIC MATERIALS.” Those genetic procedures should be something that I am in charge of, in consultation with my doctors.

It is a very dangerous thing when an entity, be it governmental or private enterprise, dictates what genetic procedures an individual must undergo!! Luckily, **this bill protects the genetic integrity of ALL people** from having to undergo genetic procedures that may be harmful to the individual. Think about the ramifications of an entity making these decisions and NOT the individual. One very important ramification is that the genetic procedures that an entity may require an individual to undergo may be very dangerous to the overall health of that individual. No entity should be making a decision for an individual that affects their very health! Those decisions should be up to the individual in consultation with his/her doctors. Only the individual and his/her doctors know the intricacies of that individual’s health situation. It is the very **fundamental right** to direct one’s own health and to make decisions for one’s own health that is at stake here!! We must preserve that fundamental right!!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in SUPPORTING this very important bill!!

Trudy Tibbals  
A Very Concerned other and Maryland Resident