

TESTIMONY: UNFAVORABLE to HB2100/SB2100

As a pro-life citizen of Maryland, I ask you to please vote against HB2100 and SB2100 and reject unlawful gerrymandering in Maryland.

Politically-speaking, I can understand the tactic of adding one more Democrat representative to the U.S. Congress, given the Democrats' loathing of our current U.S. President. Since 7 out of our 8 Congressional seats are already held by Democrats, this would create a bloc that would effectively deny the voting voice of the 24% of Maryland voters who are Republicans and the 22% of Maryland voters who are Independent. That cuts the tongue out of 46% of Maryland voters who will lose their representation in the U.S. Congress – nearly half of all Maryland voters!

In principle, as people who have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the great State of Maryland, is this really the ethical and right thing to do?

I believe that gerrymandering in favor of representation solely by Democrats will severely limit the fundamental freedoms of over one million pro-life Marylanders like me and many people who believe in the sacredness of human life in all of its stages, which is part of the Republican Party platform and a sincerely held belief of many religious faiths exercised in our state. This includes freedom of speech, freedom of religion, equal representation and equal protection -- values that are cherished by a majority across the political spectrum and should be protected. Limiting representation to just one party creates a totalitarian state – and that is not what democracy is about.

If pro-lifers lose their voice in the legislature, we will continue to experience a decline in birth rate and -- looking ahead -- our future tax-paying generations to support those programs which are designed to help people receive the resources they need to build self-sustaining lives and to have their own families and the benefits that come with family love, including home-based care for the elderly and disabled.

Cutting out the pro-life voice would leave millions of preborn children defenseless, and amount to a death sentence for medically vulnerable individuals. There would be no state protection for the conscience rights of medical providers who do not want to commit abortion or euthanasia due to their deeply held religious beliefs. Doctors would be forced out of the state or out of practice, creating a prenatal and obstetrical care desert in Maryland. The end result for women and families will be fewer choices, substandard medical care and increased rates of maternal and fetal injury and death.

Again, I ask – is this really the right and ethical thing to do -- to NOT protect the rights of ALL Marylanders?

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB2100 AND SB2100.

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