

Judiciary Committee
House Bill 885
Unfavorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee;

Please give House Bill 885 an unfavorable report.

House Bill 885 is unnecessary. There are already laws against assault and battery. As was stated by a member of the crossfile's sponsor panel, this bill is really about fetal personhood. This would pave the way to giving zygotes, blastocysts, embryos, and fetuses more rights than pregnant people.

And since Senator Carozza brought up the rate of abortions among Black women during her testimony about SB302, I'd also like to say that Black women are perfectly capable of making decisions about their own bodies, and to suggest otherwise is racist. It's also bigoted to insinuate that those abortions were due to pressure by their partners, as though **a.** Black women can't stand up to abusive men, and **b.** Black men (who are more likely to be the partners of Black women) are inherently abusive. Perhaps the sponsors should consider the possibility that other issues are at play.

I urge an unfavorable vote on House Bill 885. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD