

VOTE AGAINST THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AMENDMENT

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IN THE NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION, MARYLAND VOTERS WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE “FOR” OR “AGAINST” ADDING A “Reproductive Freedom” AMENDMENT TO THE MD CONSTITUTION.

AMENDMENT vs LAW: An amendment, which must be ratified by voters, creates a new, legal standard that supersedes pre-existing laws. When problems arise, laws are easier to modify. Any changes to an amendment in the state constitution would require passage of a bill in the Maryland General Assembly followed by another ballot question for the voters. Laws are passed by the Maryland General Assembly alone.



What are we voting on? The proposed amendment states:

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS – RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

“That **every person**, as a central component of an **individual’s** right 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. 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.”

“**Person**” and “**individual**” include males and females, regardless of age. Efforts to replace “person” and “individual” with WOMAN and exclude minors were REJECTED.

LOSS OF PARENTAL RIGHTS:

Efforts to include age and parental notification requirements were REJECTED. A lower age limit does not exist in this amendment. Children, correctly treated as juveniles in the criminal justice system, will be allowed to make life-altering medical decisions regarding their reproductive biology.

NOT SIMPLY ABOUT ABORTION:

Efforts to replace “**reproductive freedom**” with “**abortion**” were REJECTED. The phrase, “**including but not limited to,**” reveals that “reproductive freedom” is not exclusive to abortion. “Reproductive freedom” includes any drugs or procedures pertaining to the reproductive system and reproductive anatomy, male or female.

INCREASED HEALTHCARE COSTS FOR ALL MARYLANDERS: Ability to pay cannot be a **burden**. Abortion is already covered by Medicaid and private health insurance providers. Gender transition drugs and surgeries are covered by Medicaid. Any drug or procedure included under the “reproductive freedom” umbrella **could not be denied** due to cost. These elective procedures would be paid for by Marylanders through Medicaid and private health insurance.

INCREASED LITIGATION: Opposition could be seen as “abridging” a person’s access to these “new rights.” Conscience protections for healthcare professionals will be threatened.

DECREASED QUALITY AND SAFETY OF REPRODUCTIVE CARE: Parents will be excluded from their children’s medical decisions. Implementing safeguards to protect patients could be seen as abridging or burdening the new rights.

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What's the **ONE** thing you can do to **DEFEAT** the "Reproductive Freedom" amendment?

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME IN THE AREA(S) OF NEED:

web design	data analysis	list manager & buyer	social media	media buyer (TV, radio, print)
fundraiser	phone banking	speakers/presenters	church outreach	graphic artist & visual coordination
copywriters	voter registration	county coordinators	public relations	election volunteering

Email your information and area(s) of need to HealthNotHarmMD@gmail.com

DONATE:

Financial support is critical to pay for the ad campaigns and other needs.

Go to HealthNotHarmMD.org for more information about the hidden agenda of this "reproductive freedom" amendment and click on DONATE.

You may also mail checks payable to **Health Not Harm MD** to:

Health Not Harm MD
PO Box 599
Fallston, MD 21047

Donations to Health Not Harm MD are not tax deductible.