



The Maryland State Medical Society
63711 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 263701-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org



TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Bill Ferguson

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 798 – *Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 798.

Senate Bill 798 seeks to establish permanent protection of reproductive rights in Maryland. While it is likely that a majority of General Assembly members will remain supportive of reproductive rights for the next few generations, the past few years have clearly shown that there can be political shifts that could put the protection of reproductive rights at risk as we are seeing in other States. Senate Bill 798, if enacted, would place on the ballot of the next general election a constitutional amendment that, if passed, would establish that every person, as a central component of the individual’s rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive liberty and would prohibit the State from directly or indirectly denying, burdening, or abridging that right, unless justified by a compelling State interest. Amending the State’s Constitution will ensure access to abortion along with other reproductive rights in perpetuity.

The above-named organizations support safe, legal, and accessible reproductive services, free from harmful restrictions. The State’s adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment will permanently secure the right to reproductive liberty, including the right to abortion care. A favorable report is requested.