NEWS RELEASE

Club Name

Name, President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (or date)

For additional information or interview appointments:

Name, Title

Phone # email address

**Vote AGAINST Question 1**

Marylanders should vote AGAINST Question 1 on the General Election ballot -- *Constitutional Amendment – Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom*.

Nowhere is there a definition of “reproductive freedom” or mention of who will have the authority to determine what qualifies as “reproductive freedom”.

The right to an abortion has been Maryland law since 1992. Maryland does not require counseling or a waiting period. Abortion is legal without question through 26 weeks and available until birth to protect the mother’s health. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must be notified beforehand but a licensed medical doctor can waive that requirement.

So, what will the proposed amendment change? The obvious answer is that it removes the requirement for parental knowledge and consent for those under age 18. This would apply to abortion and likely gender-affirming treatments, including counseling, puberty blockers, and gender reassignment surgeries. All parental rights will be gone.

This change to the Maryland Constitution could also be used to suppress the Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Assembly of those who oppose abortion. Health care workers and medical providers whose personal beliefs object to abortion could be forced to perform services they find offensive.

Once incorporated into the Maryland Constitution, any change will require legislative action, the Governor’s approval, and another amendment to the Maryland Constitution voted on by all Maryland voters. There will be no opportunity to “tweak the law” as happens so often when legislation is implemented, when unforeseen difficulties of implementation require additional administrative or legislative action.

The wording of the amendment is too broad. There are too many unknowns.

Vote AGAINST Question 1 – Reproductive Freedom Amendment.