

## HB937 / SB890 Abortion Care Access Act

- Increasing availability of abortion care providers
- Link: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0937>

My name is Lynn McCann and I am testifying on behalf of the Baltimore Abortion Fund (BAF), a community-centered nonprofit that provides financial and logistical support to anyone living in or traveling to Maryland for abortion care. BAF operates a confidential helpline where our case managers provide information and make financial commitments to help clients pay for their procedures.

The Baltimore Abortion Fund is in strong support of the Abortion Care Access Act.

The majority of Maryland's abortion clinics and providers are concentrated in metro Baltimore and Washington D.C. People living in rural areas – especially the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland – are often forced to travel long distances to access abortion care. These logistical barriers are a serious equity issue that most profoundly affects people of color and those working to make ends meet.

We expect that existing abortion care resources in Maryland will be increasingly strained if *Roe v. Wade* is weakened and nearby states enact planned abortion restrictions. The number of people forced to travel to Maryland for abortion care is already growing – from about 40% of our clients in 2020 to nearly 50% in 2022. Our organization is bracing itself for an influx of requests for support from out-of-state clients if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

It is vital that our state has enough providers to meet the growing demand for this essential form of health care, which is why we strongly support establishing the Abortion Clinical Care Training Program proposed in this legislation. Investing in abortion care training and allowing qualified health care professionals, such as midwives and nurse practitioners, to provide abortions is a crucial step to protect and expand the accessibility of abortion care in Maryland.

Abortions are time-sensitive health care that cannot be delayed. The Abortion Care Access Act will ensure that Maryland has the health care workforce to continue to provide vital abortion care to its residents.