



Chair Shane E. Pendergrass
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass,

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster, a collaborative initiative of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation, strongly supports House Bill 937, the Abortion Care Access Act. This bill would establish the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program and affirm abortion care as within the scope of practice of advanced practice clinicians.

Our APC Cluster represents nearly 300 nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, physician assistants, and students who support protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care across the country. As clinicians in reproductive health care, we know that patients' rights to receive abortion care are often nullified by the many barriers they face in accessing it. Maryland, a state where 75% of counties currently do not have abortion providers, will very likely become a haven for access to both abortion care and training by passing HB 937, particularly as it sees an influx of out-of-state patients in response to other highly restrictive regulations across state lines. This is because HB 937 would add Maryland to the list of fourteen other states that already affirm the provision of abortion care as within the scope of practice of advanced practice clinicians. It also establishes the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program to create a pathway for more providers to integrate this essential care into their practices and provide ongoing training for clinicians in abortion care.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Organizer Lily Trotta at lily@reproductiveaccess.org or 646-893-4356.

Sincerely

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation