

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

**SUPPORT – HB 937
Abortion Care Access Act**

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass,

The Bronfein Family Law Clinic at The University of Baltimore School of Law **strongly supports** House Bill 937, the Abortion Care Access Act.

The Bronfein Family Law Clinic (FLC) provides pro bono, client-centered representation to individuals in Baltimore and the surrounding counties who could not otherwise afford a lawyer. Student-attorneys in the FLC represent clients seeking assistance on family law matters who are low-income, Maryland residents. Many of our clients have experienced intimate partner abuse, and/or disproportionately face barriers in securing justice within the legal system due to economic discrimination, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination. As student attorneys we also work on issues of reproductive justice as it is also a family law matter.

In our efforts to mitigate the barriers to accessing legal representation, we must also address additional barriers our clients face in their everyday lives outside of our offices. The current threat to abortion access affects much of our client population.

Our clients subsist on public benefits or are the working poor. Their finances are stretched to meet their daily needs and those of their children. They often are without cars, cannot afford taxis, and rely on public transportation. Without free access to abortion care, individuals like our clients would not be able to afford an abortion. And without access to physically proximate abortion care, individuals like our clients would struggle to get to an abortion care provider. HB 937 would address this problem by increasing the number of clinicians in the state who are able to provide abortion care. Securing access to abortion care through the proposed bills means one less barrier to the justice our clients and other Maryland residents deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Chandler Jones (cjones@ubalt.edu), Neha Khan (neha.khan@ubalt.edu), and/or Katie Simon (katherine.simon@ubalt.edu).

Sincerely,

Bronfein Family Law Clinic
University of Baltimore School of Law