



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 22, 2022

House Bill 937

Abortion Care Access Act

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: OPPOSE

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. We offer this testimony in opposition of House Bill 937.

HB 937 establishes the Abortion Clinical Care Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health and makes substantial changes regarding the requirements related to who may perform abortion in the State.

Given that abortion is ubiquitous in our state, Maryland women are not looking for abortion expansion but rather help with basic necessities they need to survive and thrive. National polling indicates that a majority of low-income women identify as prolife and 75% of Latinos and African Americans support abortion restrictions.

Offering abortion without providing alternatives is reproductive coercion. This type of bill rejects the self-determination and bodily autonomy of women, especially low-income women, immigrants, and women of color. Maryland women want support to be able to achieve their dreams and raise their children. It is not more abortion that Maryland needs, but a clear understanding of the diverse demographic in our state and support and resources for growing families.

For these reasons, we urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 937.

