



JOHN P. SARBANES
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

February 18, 2022

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

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass:

Thank you for providing the public with an opportunity to comment on Maryland's Abortion Care Access Package, SB 890, HB 937 and HB 952, which will ensure that Marylanders have meaningful access to abortion care services across the state.

Within the boundaries established under *Roe v. Wade*, a woman's decision about whether to carry her pregnancy to term is hers alone. Protecting that legal standard and the critical access that flows from it is paramount. Often, the powerful and wealthy can find their way around barriers to abortion care while marginalized communities that lack political power and similar levels of economic opportunity find themselves disproportionately impacted. That is why it is so important to promote the availability of high-quality, accessible and affordable reproductive health services in all communities.

In 1992, Maryland voters approved Question Six with nearly 62 percent of the vote, establishing our state as a leader in protecting access to abortion and promoting the efficient delivery of high-quality health care services. In my prior life as an attorney, I was privileged and inspired to work with the coalition that led the Question Six campaign. With the package of bills being brought forward in this year's session, the General Assembly has the opportunity to strengthen Maryland's longstanding commitment of access to abortion by removing barriers that prevent certain licensed health care providers from performing abortions, expanding training opportunities, ensuring that all recipients of Medicaid have access to abortion care and making sure that state-managed private insurance plans do not impose cost-sharing requirements on abortion care.

Again, thank you for gathering input on this important package of legislation and for your continuing efforts to protect the right to abortion care across Maryland.

Sincerely,

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress