



www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

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www.marylandwomen.org

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The Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
The Hon. Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0937 – Abortion Care Access Act

Dear Delegate Pendergrass, Delegate Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

In 1991, the Maryland General Assembly codified the legal right to abortion, as provided by *Roe v Wade*, and today Maryland is now considered a safe state for abortion rights even if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v Wade*. However, the state has limited abortion care options for women. Two-thirds of Maryland counties do not have abortion providers.

HB0937 would protect and increase access to affordable abortion care, recognizing that advanced practice clinicians - nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives/certified midwives, and physician assistants - are qualified to provide abortion care. These clinicians are the key to ensuring access to abortion care in every region of the state. The bill provides state support for clinical training in abortion care.

For the protection and health of women in the state of Maryland, the Maryland Commission for Women recommends that the House support the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022. This bill will expand the number of healthcare professionals with abortion care training and, importantly, increase racial and ethnic diversity represented; support the identification, screening, and placement of qualified providers at training sites; and support an abortion care clinical training fund.

As you may know, the MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women's accomplishments and contributions, and provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state. It is

to fulfill this mandate that the Commission writes to you today urging your support of HB0937.

(Please note that the positions expressed in this letter are those of the MCW and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.)

With very best regards,


Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women