



www.marylandwomen.org

Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

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March 8, 2024

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The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
The Honorable Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1091 -Public Safety-Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program-Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

Dear Delegates Barnes and Chang and members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) writes to you with respect to support for HB1091- Public Safety-Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program-Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act) that for fiscal year 2026 may allow the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State to implement security improvements. The improvements may include interior and exterior facility hardening, perimeter lighting, fencing and other barriers, door locks and access control systems, security cameras, alarms, panic buttons, lockdown systems and public address systems.

We understand this to be a one-time grant allocation that will be managed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control Prevention. It will help reproductive health care clinics to begin to establish improvements to physical structure infrastructure and better provide for the safety of clients, staff and neighbors. In addition to the funding that will support crucial physical plant improvements, the reporting mechanisms will help legislators to better understand the needs of this important health care clinics and allow for effective future planning.

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.
- Provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of Maryland.

It is to fulfill this mandate that the commission writes to you today. 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.

This bill will potentially increase the security of the Reproductive Health Care Clinics and increase the safety of clients, staff and other located in the vicinity of the clinics.

Thank you for introducing this legislation, and we urge the full committee to act favorably on HB1091.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tawanda A. Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women

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