



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1091: “Protecting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act”

House Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - 12:00PM

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

An epidemic of violence towards reproductive healthcare clinics is currently underway, threatening pivotal access to care. The National Abortion Federation’s 2022 Violence & Disruption Report found a sharp increase in incidents of violence in states which are protective of access to reproductive care. There have been 11 murders, 42 bombings, 200 arsons, 531 assaults, 492 clinic invasions, 375 burglaries, and thousands of other incidents of criminal activity toward patients, providers, and volunteers¹.

Following the Supreme Court’s decision in the Dobbs case overturning Roe v. Wade², reproductive health clinics experienced a significant increase in violent and threatening incidents. These incidents include:

- Stalking rising by 229% (from 28 in 2021 to 92 in 2022)
- Burglary rising by 231% (from 13 in 2021 to 43 in 2022)
- Arson increasing by 100% (from 2 in 2021 to 4 in 2022)
- Invasions increasing by 25% (from 16 in 2021 to 20 in 2022)
- Anthrax/bioterrorism threats increasing by 100% in the past decade (from 2 between 2010-2021 to 4 in 2022)
- Protective states saw a disproportionate increase in violence and disruption:
 - Stalking increasing by 913% (from 8 in 2021 to 81 in 2022)
 - Obstructions increasing by 538% (from 45 in 2021 to 287 in 2022)
 - Bomb threats increasing by 133% (from 3 in 2021 to 7 in 2022)
 - Burglaries increasing by 100% (from 5 in 2021 to 10 in 2022)
 - Assault and batteries increasing by 29% (from 7 in 2021 to 9 in 2022)
 - Hoax Devices/Suspicious Packages increasing by 21% (from 47 in 2021 to 57 in 2022)

HB1091 would help address the alarming rise in violence by establishing a Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. This program would assist reproductive health care clinics with costs associated with security improvements including but not limited to facility hardening; fencing and other barriers; access control systems; security cameras; alarms; lockdown systems; and public address systems. The Executive Director would establish procedures for the application, award processes, and eligibility requirements. For

¹<https://prochoice.org/violence-against-abortion-providers-continues-to-rise-following-roe-reversal-new-report-finds/>

²https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf

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FY26, the Governor may include a provision in the annual budget bill of an appropriation of \$500,000 to the program, with up to 5% of the money appropriated to the program to be used for administrative expenses.

We have included an amendment in collaboration with our crossfile, Senator Sarah Elfreth, to directly address the concerns from Planned Parenthood by defining the phrase “reproductive health care clinic”. This definition is settled by utilizing a combination of two existing statutory definitions, including the definition of “health care provider”, which would ensure that the funds go to medical professionals providing medical care, and specifying “legally protected health care”, which will define the scope of care to be qualified for these grants.

The Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program will provide meaningful security to patients, providers, volunteers, and clinics amidst ongoing and increased violence threatening access to care in Maryland.

I urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB1091.