



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 5, 2024
RE: HB1091: Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic
Security Grant Program – Establishment

The MLLC supports HB1091: Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment, 2024

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1091.

Violence against reproductive health care clinics that provide abortion services has increased significantly.¹ In 2021, reproductive health care clinics saw assaults rising from 15 in 2018 to 123, and stalking has increased by 600%, and an increase in invasions by 129%.² Seventy-one hoax devices or suspicious packages were reported at clinics, compared to 4 in 2018 and bomb threats saw an 80% increase in comparison to previous years.³ Immigrant women who do obtain reproductive health care and contraceptive care are significantly more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to visit publicly funded family planning centers. The Commonwealth Fund reports 41 percent of immigrant women who obtained contraceptive care in the years 2006 to 2010 did so at safety-net family planning centers, compared to 25 percent of their U.S.-born counterparts.⁴ Seven of 10 immigrant women reported a safety-net site as their usual source of medical care.⁵ These findings underscore the importance of safe access to these providers for low-income and uninsured immigrants.

HB1091 will establish the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program to provide grant funding directly to reproductive health care clinics in the state to fund infrastructure costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses that will enhance the safety and security of reproductive health care clinics. This grant program would be housed in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. Financial aspects of this bill indicate that up to 5% of the money appropriated may be used for administrative expenses. For fiscal year 2026, the governor may include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the program.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1091.

¹ [NAF](#)

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ [Hasstedt et al.](#)

⁵ *Ibid.*