



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 947 – Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund-Establishment

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 947 – Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund*. The bill addresses the urgent need for sustainable resources to ensure abortion access in Maryland.

Abortion care has been excluded from most traditional public health programs. Federal law, known as the Hyde Amendment, prohibits federal funds from being used for most abortion services. Thus, there is no public health grant funding for abortion care in contrast for programs that exist for family planning, breast and cervical cancer screening, and prenatal care.

People who need support for abortion care and wrap-around services, such as travel, often turn to abortion funds, which are non-profit organizations committed to ensuring access to abortion care for everyone regardless of resources. However, abortion funds have reported that their resources are stretched beyond capacity.

Abortion providers also need support for more security. Violence has increased since the *Dobbs* decision. There has been a 900% increase in stalking and a 133% increase in bomb threats.ⁱ

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://prochoice.org/our-work/provider-security/2022-naf-violence-disruption/>