



Bill No: SB947
Title: Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund – Establishment
Committee: Finance
Hearing: March 6, 2024
Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB947 - Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund – Establishment** is a priority on the [2024 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

SB947 will promote security measures around sexual and reproductive health clinics to protect patients, providers, and advocates from harassment and risk of physical harm.

In the aftermath of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision by the US Supreme Court, anti-choice advocates have been successful in drastically reducing or eliminating access to abortion and other reproductive health care in many states, particularly in the Southeast. In Maryland we are rising to meet the challenge of providing access to sexual and reproductive health care to not only Maryland women, but people coming from all over the country. Just as people come here from all over seeking abortion care, so too will anti-choice advocates focus their efforts here as they work to eliminate abortion access elsewhere. All people seeking sexual and reproductive health services deserve the dignity of safe passage into our health care facilities. At present, Maryland law prohibits the obstruction of clinic entrances, but does not provide any sort of affirmative support for security measures at clinics. Additionally, there is no present state funding to help individuals access abortion care.

The Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund will provide grants to abortion care facilities to enhance security measures. This can include physical improvements to clinics to promote safety and security, as well as security measures such as cameras. This bill also provides for funding to assist individuals with abortion-related expenses such as fees for the procedure itself, as well as ancillary expenses such as travel expenses. The funding for this program will come from directed appropriations as well as funding that already exists under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). ACA requires insurers offering coverage of abortion care to segregate the portion of premiums paid for that purpose. These bills mandate that any funds left over in excess of 10% after insurers have paid expenses for abortion care be remitted to the Abortion Care Access Grant Program.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB947.

MLAW 2024 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2024 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Garrett Branch
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
Adolescent Single Parent Program (PGCPS)
Anne Arundel County Commission for Women
Anne Arundel County NOW
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Black Women for Positive Change, Baltimore Chapter
Bound for Better, Advocates for Domestic Violence
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence
Business & Professional Women/Maryland
Center for Infant & Child Loss
Child Justice, Inc.
Church Women United, Inc.
Climate XChange Maryland
Court Watch Montgomery
CTLDomGroup Inc
DABS Consulting, LLC
Engage Mountain Maryland
Frederick County Commission For Women
If/When/How at University of Baltimore School of Law
Lee Law, LLC
Les Etoiles in Haiti
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Maryland WISE Women
Miller Partnership Consultants
MomsRising
Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Montgomery County NOW
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter
National Organization for Women, Maryland Chapter
Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at UMB
REHarrington Plumbing and Heating
Reproductive Justice Maryland
Stella's Girls Inc
The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland
The Hackerman Foundation
The Relentless Feminist
The Salvation Army Catherine's Cottage
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Patuxent River
Top Ladies of Distinction, Prince George's County
TurnAround Inc.
University System of Maryland Women's Forum
Women of Action Maryland
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporate - Alpha Zeta Chapter
Zonta Club of Annapolis

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 - Towson, MD 21204 - 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com - www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org