

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 975 – Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Protecting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

**Hearing Date:** March 8, 2024

**Position:** Support

---

The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports *Senate Bill 975- Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security and Grant Program – Establishment*. The bill would provide \$500,000 in annual funding for a security grant program under the Governor's Office of Crime, Prevention, Youth and Victim Services.

We are deeply concerned about the escalation of violence and threats to abortion providers and patients since the *Dobbs* decision. There has been over a 900% increase in reports of stalking by abortion providers in 2022.<sup>i</sup>

The threat of violence has a chilling effect on abortion access in Maryland and other jurisdictions. Providers are afraid to offer services, leaving many communities without access to abortion care. Maryland residents are still forced to travel, and at many abortion provider sites, patients face intimidating lines of protestors. Patients do not face this kind of threat in accessing any other kind of health care service.

This legislation offers critical support to abortion providers for improving security for their staff and patients. Funding may be used for grants for equipment, security staffing, and capital improvements.

We ask for a favorable vote. Please contact Robyn Elliott for any additional information at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

**The Women’s Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.**

---

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