



March 5, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Vice Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier,

I would like to express my full support for *Senate Bill 975 - Public Safety - Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program - Establishment*.

Nationwide, reproductive healthcare clinics are under the threat of widespread violence, creating yet another barrier to accessible care. In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs*, reproductive healthcare clinics have seen a significant rise in violent and threatening incidents. These incidents include a 229% rise in stalking, 231% rise in burglary, 100% rise in arson, and 100% rise in bioterrorism. In states protecting access to care, like Maryland, stalking increased 913%, bomb threats increased 133%, and assault and batteries increased 29%.

Threats and acts of violence against patients, providers, and clinics pose an undeniable barrier to Marylanders' access to reproductive healthcare. SB 975 takes important steps to ensure the safety of reproductive healthcare clinics, their employees and providers, and those they serve. The proposed grant program to be administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy will be used to enhance the physical security infrastructure at reproductive healthcare clinics ensuring security for patients, providers, volunteers, and clinics amidst the ongoing and increasing violence threatening access to care.

No person, in any state in this nation, should be fearful of violence while seeking healthcare of any kind. Period.

As I continue to fight to protect reproductive healthcare at the federal level, it is imperative that the State of Maryland provide reproductive healthcare clinics with the resources they need to protect themselves, their providers, and their patients from this unprecedented rise in threats and violence.

Maryland has already made strides to enshrine access to critical reproductive healthcare in its constitution and I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 975 - Public Safety - Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program - Establishment* the highest consideration to further protect the rights of Marylanders who need access to that care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Trone', written in a cursive style.

David Trone
Member of Congress