



To: Finance Committee Members
Senator Pam Beidle, Chair
Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair

From: Candace Love RN, MSN, FNP-BC
Reproductive Justice Maryland, Inc. Board Member

Re: SB0947 – Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund - Establishment
FAVORABLE

Date: March 4, 2024

I worked at Planned Parenthood as my part time job to support my mother and to pay for her caretakers as she had been diagnosed with cancer. I was offered the job as a Post Anesthesia Care Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner because I had 20 years' experience as a Post Anesthesia Care Nurse and worked as the Assistant Nurse Practitioner.

My job would be to provide care to women after their procedures including prescribing birth control of choice and education. I was proud of this job as women's health has always been an interest of mine. What I didn't know is that every Saturday I worked I would have to walk through a line of protesters.

When I arrived to work on Saturdays, I could see the protesters lined up on both sides of the sidewalk before the entrance of the clinic. The escorts for the patients were at the entrance waiting. As I walked through the protesters, they would shove pamphlets in my hand and tell me about the other options besides abortion. The closer I got to the door, the louder they became. Eventually, they figured out that I worked there and that is when the harassment began. Now when I walked through the protester's line they would shout, "WHY DO YOU WORK HERE -SHAME!" and I would curse to get them out of my way. Then Planned Parenthood decided that all employees should come through the back door and the doctors were now wearing bulletproof vests.

All I wanted was to provide health care to women after their procedure in a safe and supportive environment. Health Care is a basic human right and the health care providers should not be threatened as they deliver care. Thus, I hope you will vote **FAVORABLY** in support of SB0947.