

# **SB0975\_Supporting\_Reproductive\_Health\_Care\_Clinics**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0975 Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Elfreth

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0975 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act in Maryland aims to enhance the safety and security of reproductive health care clinics. The Act establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

The program's purpose is to assist reproductive health care clinics in the state with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. This funding will support eligible clinics in enhancing their security measures.

One of our Coalition members in "mountain Maryland" recently told us about intimidating protests at an abortion clinic that hadn't even opened yet! We need to make our new patients from Maryland and beyond feel safe when receiving this essential healthcare.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of patients and staff at reproductive health care clinics is crucial, and this act takes a step toward achieving that goal.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

# **SB 975 SUPPORT (March 2024).pdf**

Uploaded by: Dawn Luedtke

Position: FAV



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 7

March 5, 2024

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

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

Dear Chair Beidle:

I write to you today in strong support of Senate Bill 975, *Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act*, which would establish the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. This bill would also authorize the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Program.

The Freedom of Access to Clinical Entrances Act (FACE Act) (18 U.S.C. §248) legislation co-sponsored by Montgomery County's former Congresswoman Connie Morella (R-MD) helped to decrease instances of violent action, along with other disruptive tactics at reproductive health clinics across the United States. Sadly, in the aftermath of the 2016 Presidential Election, instances of death threats or threats of harm along with claims that could be brought under the FACE Act have increased.<sup>12</sup> In addition to providing abortions, these clinics also provide access to gender-affirming care and a host of other health care services. Between 2020 and 2022, the number of verified incidents of hate bias based on gender identity that have been reported to law enforcement has increased by 200%, and the number based on anti-LGBTQ bias has increased by 60%.<sup>3</sup>

This legislation is a common sense and warranted response to the unfortunate reality in which we find ourselves. With reproductive health care under attack, we must take appropriate and necessary action to protect health care workers and patients to ensure that this lifesaving medical care remains safe and accessible.

I strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 975.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke  
Councilmember, District 7  
Montgomery County  
cc: Members of the Finance Committee

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/07/abortion-clinic-protests-stats-2017-surge>

<sup>2</sup> <https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-NAF-Violence-and-Disruption-Statistics.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mcac.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2022-Maryland-Hate-Bias-Report.pdf>

# **SB975 Testimony 2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 975 - Favorable**  
**Finance Committee**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Finance Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 975, the Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act, a Favorable report.

I volunteer as a clinic escort at a city reproductive healthcare clinic that is situated on a public sidewalk and has no private parking lot. This means that patients have to park on the street and walk across at least one public road and on a public sidewalk in order to get into the clinic. Anti-choice protesters accost and try to block patients on their way from their cars to the building, even putting their hands on them. They name-call, accuse, guilt, and harass the patients and anyone who accompanies them, even when the patients tell them that they're just there for birth control, being seen about a wanted pregnancy, or are in tears because they miscarried. There are anti-choicers who write down license plate numbers, and record and take photos of employees, patients, and volunteers.

Anti-choicers push, jab, and ram into clinic escorts as we try to safely escort patients past the them and into the building. The anti-choice protesters regularly, often constantly, harass clinic escorts, even when no patients are around. We have been threatened and heard threats towards the clinic, witnessed fights, had anti-choicers yell in our faces, and been outright assaulted by them. Despite what they often claim, these are not peaceful protesters.

Clinic employees, patients, and volunteers are all at risk, all the time. We're usually met with apathy when we report things to the police, though some show up just to tell the anti-choicers that they agree with them. Clinics need to be able to increase security measures in order to keep people safe. I urge you to give Senate Bill 975 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD

# **SB975 -Public Safety-Reproductive Health.pdf**

Uploaded by: Essita Duncan

Position: FAV



www.marylandwomen.org

# Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

51 Monroe Street, Ste. 1034 – Rockville, Maryland 20850  
240-306-5718  
www.marylandwomen.org

March 5, 2024

*Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair*

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First Vice Chair*

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*Vacant,  
Executive Director*

*Tammy Wise  
Management Associate*

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

Re: SB975 -Public Safety-Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program-Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

Dear Senators Beidle and Klausmeier and members of the Finance Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) writes to you with respect to support for SB975- Public Safety-Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program-Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act) that for fiscal year 2026 may allow the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State to implement security improvements. The improvements may include interior and exterior facility hardening, perimeter lighting, fencing and other barriers, door locks and access control systems, security cameras, alarms, panic buttons, lockdown systems and public address systems.

We understand this to be a one-time grant allocation that will be managed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control Prevention. It will help reproductive health care clinics to begin to establish improvements to physical structure infrastructure and better provide for the safety of clients, staff and neighbors. In addition to the funding that will support crucial physical plant improvements, the reporting mechanisms will help legislators to better understand the needs of this important health care clinics and allow for effective future planning.

The MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include:

- Study the status of women in our state.
- Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination.
- Recognize women's accomplishments and contributions.
- Provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of Maryland.

It is to fulfill this mandate that the commission writes to you today. Please note that the positions expressed in this letter are those of the MCW and do not necessarily reflect



the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.

This bill will potentially increase the security of the Reproductive Health Care Clinics and increase the safety of clients, staff and other located in the vicinity of the clinics.

Thank you for introducing this legislation, and we urge the full committee to act favorably on SB 975.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tawanda A. Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair  
Maryland Commission for Women

*(The positions expressed in this letter are those of the Commission for Women and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.)*

# **Testimony in Support of Reproductive Health Care C**

Uploaded by: Kelly Marx

Position: FAV

## Testimony in Support of Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program

As a member of the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force and active clinic escort at the Planned Parenthood in Downtown Baltimore, I am writing in support of the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program. Funding for greater security at clinics across the state is of vital importance. Being physically present at clinics can be very dangerous and anxiety-inducing for patients, escorts, and staff members. At our clinic alone, anti-choice protestors (antis as we call them) have followed patients and providers to their vehicles, taken photos of license plates, verbally abused patients, staff, and volunteers, and become very physically aggressive. Police are frequently called, which further disrupts the ability of patients to access vital healthcare services including abortions, STI screenings, gender-affirming care, and HIV services. The very presence of antis intimidates and scares patients away from seeking services that they have the legal right to pursue.

As all clinic escorts are unpaid volunteers, we sometimes have a hard time getting coverage. When there is a shift that we can't get more than one escort to sign up for, we have to cancel the shift as it is not safe for us to escort alone. Our clinic specifically needs escort coverage on weekday afternoons. This significantly reduces the number of people who are available to volunteer due to work, school, and family obligations. Without adequate escort coverage, patients are left to fend for themselves against the antis who intentionally harass and frighten them, including passing out misinformation leaflets in an attempt to control their reproductive healthcare decisions. While the security team at our clinic is very dedicated and diligent, they are overwhelmed with needing to constantly provide surveillance and they are not able to provide the level of security needed.

The landscape of each clinic throughout the state varies greatly. For example, the clinic I escort at in Downtown Baltimore has a public sidewalk in front of it. This significantly impedes our ability to add physical barriers in front of the doors to block antis as all individuals have a right to demonstrate on a public sidewalk. Other clinics are located in stand-alone buildings, shopping centers, and office buildings. Clinics across the state can be found in rural, suburban, and urban areas and each environment presents its own set of security challenges. Due to vast differences in the logistics of each clinic, I would

encourage the grant program to allow for discretionary allocation of funds. This would provide clinic representatives with the opportunity to make their own decisions regarding how the funds could be best used. These budgetary determinations can be made based on their extensive experience and expert knowledge of the unique needs of their respective clinics.

Harassment and violence against abortion providers and clinics, including “assaults, burglaries, and clinic invasions,” continues to persist post-Dobbs according to the National Abortion Federation. NPR reports that eleven individuals have been killed in attacks on abortion providers and clinics since 1993. As abortion grows increasingly restricted across the country, Maryland will continue to receive an influx of patients from other states seeking reproductive healthcare. After the fall of Roe, two new independent abortion clinics have opened in Maryland. With the increase in patient traffic and number of clinics operating in the state, the need to provide funding for additional security has also increased. The FACE Act does not go far enough. We need your help to protect the right to bodily autonomy for all across the state.

As a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor working in community mental health, I have often agonized over my inability to do more for my clients in need. You have been presented with the rare opportunity to offer aid to individuals who may be at the most vulnerable point in their lives. Please do not neglect the chance to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Marx". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Marx, LGPC

she/her/hers

[kellyannmarx@outlook.com](mailto:kellyannmarx@outlook.com)

# **3-7-SB 975-Public Safety—Reproductive Health Care**

Uploaded by: Lisa Barkan

Position: FAV



## **TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **SB 975-Public Safety—Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program— Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinic Act)**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Linda T. Kohn, President**

**Date: March 7, 2022**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League believes that everyone should have access to reproductive health care in a safe setting.

After the Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, many states passed statutes banning or impermissibly restricting a person's ability to obtain reproductive care. In response, in 2023, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Reproductive Health Protection Act (HB 808/ SB 859) which protects patients, health care providers and those assisting patients from such litigation.

Specifically, the Reproductive Health Protection Act shields individuals from extradition, prohibits Maryland agencies and law enforcement from assisting out of state investigations of people who access, provide, or assist people to obtain reproductive care that is legal in Maryland, and prohibits licensing boards from investigating Maryland licensees and certificate holders solely because they provide legally-permitted reproductive care.

Under the Reproductive Health Protection Act, health care professionals are able to provide reproductive care and patients can access such care without fear of a civil action or criminal proceeding. Unfortunately, access to reproductive care alone is not sufficient. After the Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, violence against reproductive health care clinics, patients who seek such care, and health care providers increased sharply. See March 11, 2023 National Abortion Federation Press Release. In order to minimize the threat of violence, reproductive health care clinics must purchase adequate security.

Senate Bill 975 creates the, "Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program.," and places it in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. Under this program qualifying reproductive health care clinics would receive grants for security measures. Patients should be able to access care and professionals should be able to provide such care without concern for their safety. Senate Bill 975 would help reproductive health care clinics pay for these needed security measures.

For these reasons the League of Women Voters Maryland, which represents more than 1,500 concerned citizens throughout Maryland, strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 975.

# **Abortion Care - Security - testimony - senate -**

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
mcasa.org

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 975**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
March 6, 2024

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. MCASA urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 975.

**Senate Bill 975 – Abortion Care – Safety and Security for Clinic Patients**

This bill will establish the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program to assist reproductive health care clinics with costs associated with safety and security needed to help protect patients seeking abortion care. These patients include survivors of rape who seek to terminate pregnancies caused by the sexual assault.

**Access to abortion care is vital to survivors of rape.**

The CDC reports that almost 3 million women in the U.S. experienced Rape-Related Pregnancy (RRP) during their lifetime. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/understanding-RRP-inUS.html>

A three year longitudinal study of rape-related pregnancy in the U.S., published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology (1996, vol. 175, pp. 320-325), found:

5% of rape victims of reproductive age (age 12-45) became pregnant as a result of rape, with the majority of pregnancies in adolescents. Of these, half terminated the pregnancy.

Adolescents are more likely to become pregnant as result of rape because they are less likely to be on birth control or to seek emergency contraception following a rape. 29% of all forcible rapes occurred when the victim was less than 11 years old; 32% of all forcible rapes occurred when the victim was between the ages of 11 and 17.

**Survivors of Reproductive Coercion Need Access to Abortion Care**

Reproductive coercion is a form of intimate partner violence where a woman's partner tries to control reproductive decisions by preventing access to or tampering with birth control, or forcing sexual intercourse with the intent of causing pregnancy. Of women who were raped by an intimate partner,



30% experienced a form of reproductive coercion by the same partner. Specifically, about 20% reported that their partner had tried to get them pregnant when they did not want to or tried to stop them from using birth control. About 23% reported their partner refused to use a condom.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/understanding-RRP-inUS.html>

These survivors need access to abortion care if they become pregnant and choose not to continue the pregnancy.

Senate Bill 975 will provide health care facilities with practical operational support needed to help ensure the survivors and other patients seeking abortion care are safe.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Finance Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 975**



**SB 975\_MNADV\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: FAV



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 975  
**TITLE:** Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**HEARING DATE:** March 6, 2024  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Senate Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 975.**

Between 6-22% of women terminate their pregnancies because they're in an abusive relationship.<sup>1</sup> One of the most common reasons why survivors struggle to leave their abuser is because they have children in common. When a survivor is denied an abortion, they remain tethered to their abusive partner, whereas survivors who choose to terminate an unwanted pregnancy have a reduced risk of experiencing violence over time.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, survivors frequently experience forms of abuse that put them at an increased risk for unintended pregnancy, such as birth control sabotage, sexual assault, and reproductive coercion.<sup>3</sup> 2.1 million women in the U.S. have become pregnant as a result of rape by an intimate partner,<sup>4</sup> and, in one study, 16% of survivors with rape-related pregnancies chose to get an abortion.<sup>5</sup> Access to abortions can be a matter of life or death for survivors of domestic violence because experiencing abuse while pregnant puts survivors at a much higher risk of being killed by their abuser.<sup>6</sup>

This bill establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. MNADV supports ensuring the safety of those accessing care at a reproductive health care clinic, including victims of domestic violence.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 975.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/ncadv-denounces-law-restricting-abortion-in-texas>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4182793/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/HealthCare/Reproductive%20Health%20Guidelines.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gutmacher.org/gpr/2016/07/understanding-intimate-partner-violence-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-issue>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/211678.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/70764/WHO\\_RHR\\_11.35\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/70764/WHO_RHR_11.35_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

For further information contact Melanie Shapiro • Public Policy Director • 301-852-3930 • [mshapiro@mnadv.org](mailto:mshapiro@mnadv.org)

# **SB0975\_FAV\_MDACOG\_Pub. Safety - Reproductive Healt**

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



## Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Sarah K. Elfreth

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 6, 2024

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

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** Senate Bill 975.

Senate Bill 975 establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. It requires the Governor to include \$500,000 in the annual budget to fund the program.

Despite the State's strong support for protecting reproductive rights, there remain ongoing concerns about ensuring the safe and secure provision of reproductive health care services. Establishing a grant program to assist the providers of reproductive health care services with enhancing the safety and security of their facilities to better protect both providers and patients will serve to advance Maryland's commitment to ensuring access to reproductive health care in the State. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

# 2024 WLCM SB 975 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

**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

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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.**

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



**SB 975 - Elfreth Testimony.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Elfreth

Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH  
Legislative District 30  
Anne Arundel County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 104  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety,  
Transportation, and Environment

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on  
Program Open Space/Agricultural  
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

**Testimony in Favor of SB 975  
Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act**

Chairman Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 975 to ensure safe access to reproductive health care in Maryland.

**Reproductive health care clinics are experiencing an epidemic of violence threatening access to care.** A 2022 study found a sharp increase in incidents of violence in states which are protective of access to reproductive care. Since 1977, the United States has seen 11 murders, 42 bombings, 200 arsons, 531 assaults, 492 clinic invasions, 375 burglaries, and thousands of other incidents of criminal activity toward patients, providers, and volunteers<sup>1</sup>. Following the Supreme Court's decision in the *Dobbs*<sup>2</sup> case overturning *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive health clinics experienced a significant increase in violent and threatening incidents. These incidents include:

- Stalking rose 229% (from 28 in 2021 to 92 in 2022)
- Burglary rose 231% (from 13 in 2021 to 43 in 2022)
- Arson increased by 100% (from 2 in 2021 to 4 in 2022)
- Invasions increased by 25% (from 16 in 2021 to 20 in 2022)
- There was a 100% increase in anthrax/bioterrorism threats in the past decade (from 2 between 2010-2021 to 4 in 2022)
- Protective states saw a disproportionate increase in violence and disruption:
  - Stalking increased by 913% (from 8 in 2021 to 81 in 2022)
  - Obstructions increased 538% (from 45 in 2021 to 287 in 2022)
  - Bomb threats increased by 133% (from 3 in 2021 to 7 in 2022)
  - Burglaries increased by 100% (from 5 in 2021 to 10 in 2022)
  - Assault and batteries increased by 29% (from 7 in 2021 to 9 in 2022)
  - Hoax Devices/Suspicious Packages increased by 21% (from 47 in 2021 to 57 in 2022)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://prochoice.org/violence-against-abortion-providers-continues-to-rise-following-roe-reversal-new-report-finds/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392\\_6j37.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://prochoice.org/our-work/provider-security/2022-naf-violence-disruption/>

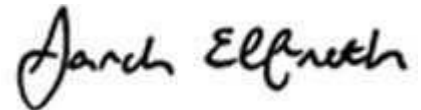
The United States Department of Justice indicated that incidents of violence against reproductive health clinics nationwide range from spray painted graffiti to bombing clinics. Incidents prosecuted by the USDOJ include:

- 2022 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - a defendant as indicted on federal charges after assaulting a Planned Parenthood clinic escort, assaulting the escort twice on the same date resulting in bodily injury.
- 2021 - Columbus, Ohio - a defendant pled guilty to federal offenses for two separate threats called in by phone to a local clinic, including threats to kill a patient and later a bomb threat. The defendant was sentenced to one year and one day in prison.
- 2019 - Columbia, Missouri - a defendant pled guilty to federal felony offenses for throwing a Molotov cocktail at a clinic and sentenced to five years imprisonment<sup>4</sup>.

**Violence against patients, providers, volunteers, and clinics are threatening Marylanders' rights to access to reproductive health care.** SB 975 takes a meaningful step in supporting reproductive health clinics and those they serve. The bill establishes a grant program administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). Grant funds may be used to establish physical security infrastructure at reproductive health clinics to support safe access to care. This grant program will provide meaningful security to patients, providers, volunteers, and clinics amidst ongoing and increased violence threatening access to care.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 975.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Sarah Elfreth  
District 30

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/crt/recent-cases-violence-against-reproductive-health-care-providers>

# **240305\_SB975\_Public Safety - Reproductive Health C**

Uploaded by: Sarah Roth

Position: FAV



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".

David Trone  
Member of Congress

**PPM--SB 975--FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Erin Bradley

Position: FWA

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 975 - Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)</b>
<b>Hearing:</b>	<b>March 6, 2024</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Favorable with Amendments</b>

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *SB 975— Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)*. This bill creates the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services (GOCPYVS). The Program will assist Maryland’s reproductive health care clinics with costs associated with security improvements .

Planned Parenthood of Maryland wholeheartedly supports the intent of this bill. However, PPM has two concerns with the legislation as drafted:

1. “Reproductive Health Care Clinic” is not defined. If the intention of the bill is to assist clinics that provide legally protected but controversial health care, including abortion and gender affirming treatment, we suggest that the bill language explicitly state that intent. As it is currently drafted, this bill could be used by any number of anti-abortion sites that purport to offer “reproductive healthcare” but in fact offer no health services at all. Theoretically, crisis pregnancy centers--which the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists claims by using “deception, delay tactics, and disinformation, CPC staffs undermine the tenets of informed consent and patient autonomy and impede access to comprehensive, ethical care”<sup>1</sup> -- could apply to the Program for support.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/abortion-is-essential/trending-issues/issue-brief-crisis-pregnancy-centers>



2. While GOCPYVS is tasked with providing resources to improve public safety, we believe the providers that would be accessing the program would be better served by going to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) who have a better grasp on the unique issues associated with clinic security. Further, abortion care is heavily stigmatized nationally; applying to the State's office responsible for criminal justice sends the message that the healthcare we provide is a criminal justice matter. For that reason we hope the sponsor will consider amending the legislation so the program is managed by MDH.

The physical safety of our providers, patients, their families and our staff is of paramount importance to Planned Parenthood of Maryland. Since 1977, well before the fall of *Roe*, there have been thousands of criminal activities directed at abortion providers, patients and support staff. The National Abortion Federation (NAF) reports that there have been 531 assaults, 492 clinic invasions, 375 burglaries, 200 arsons, 42 bombings and 11 murders directed at abortion care facilities, their providers and patients since 1977.<sup>2</sup> According to the same report, the 2022 violence and disruption statistics show a devastating increase in violence in states, like Maryland, that protect abortion rights. In 2021 there were 28 instances of stalking patients or providers nationwide, just a year later in 2022 that number rose sharply to 92 incidents. That same year there was also a 100% increase in the number of clinic arsons compared to 2021. Most concerning for Marylanders is that the NAF data shows "in 2022, many anti-abortion extremists shifted their attention to protective states after dozens of clinics were forced to close in states that banned abortion. Clinics in protective states saw a disproportionate increase in violence and disruption."

At Planned Parenthood of Maryland, our patients and staff must not only face vile comments to enter clinics, they are also subject to threats of violence and destruction, harassment and acts of physical aggression for accessing and providing legally protected healthcare. Since 2022 there have been 60 reported incidents at PPM clinics. One of the most egregious occurred in December 2023 when a known, violent protestor, followed a PPM doctor to their car. Later that day the same protestor followed a patient around a corner after they exited the clinic. This bill will have an immediate positive impact on the physical safety of our facilities and the people within by providing a funding mechanism to help providers meet their everchanging physical security needs.

If we can provide any additional information, please contact Erin Bradley at [erin.bradley@ppm.care](mailto:erin.bradley@ppm.care) or (443) 604-3544.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-VD-Report-FINAL.pdf>

# **Maryland Catholic Conference\_UNF\_SB975.pdf**

Uploaded by: Diane Arias

Position: UNF



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

March 6, 2024

**Senate Bill 975**

**Public Safety - Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program -  
Establishment (Protecting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)  
Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Unfavorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

**Senate Bill 975** establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses; and authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Program.

The state ranks among the top in the percentage of the population that undergoes abortions, and Maryland taxpayers already contribute millions in taxes toward providing abortions for others. Taxpayers should not bear the responsibility of providing security funding for a facility. If the state allocates funds to reproductive health care clinics, it should also allocate an equivalent amount to pregnancy centers to enhance support.

Women deserve more than just access to abortion. They require support and services that affirm their worth and emphasize the sanctity of the life they carry in their womb. As a society, it is concerning when the default response to any pregnancy is fear rather than joy. It is crucial for us to do better by walking with mothers in need and addressing the economic, social, racial, employment, and emotional barriers that may lead them to believe abortion is the only option. As Pope Francis reminds us, "All life has inestimable value, even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor."<sup>1</sup> The Catholic Conference actively works to ensure the protection of life from conception to natural death.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/pope-elderly-sick-unborn-poor-are-masterpieces-gods-creation>

For these reasons, the MCC asks for an unfavorable report on **SB 975**.

Thank you for your consideration.

**UNFAVORABLE.SB975.HB1091.LauraBogley.MDRTL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Bogley

Position: UNF



## **OPPOSITION STATEMENT**

SB975/HB1091

Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act

Laura Bogley, JD, Executive Director

Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we strongly object to this bill that would appropriate public grant funds to further subsidize the multi-billion dollar abortion industry and divert public funds from legitimate reproductive healthcare services. Despite the dire women's health statistics in Maryland, the State-sponsored abortion monopoly deprives women equal access to legitimate reproductive healthcare. Maryland women deserve better than a system prioritizing death and destruction over their reproductive health.

We strongly oppose the use of public funds to finance abortion facility infrastructure. Bill proponents are attempting to distort reality and manufacture a crisis in order to extort taxpayer funding to further enrich the multi-billion dollar abortion industry. The bill is based on a false premise and defamatory claims that abortion facilities in Maryland are facing increased threats of violence from anti-abortion "terrorists" and therefore require millions in taxpayer subsidies to enhance facility security.

The truth is that pro-abortion assailants have committed escalating acts of violence and vandalism against pro-life citizens and pregnancy resource centers in Maryland since the Supreme Court's 2022 reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Pro-life citizens have the right to Equal Protection under the law and it is the duty of the state to enforce the law without political bias.

The state of Maryland has no legal obligation to fund abortions or to subsidize the abortion industry. If the state elects to do so, it must provide equal protection under the law for pro-life citizens and provide equal accommodation for pregnant women who choose to utilize the services of pregnancy resource centers, churches and community-based pro-life organizations.

## **70% of Violence Committed by Abortion Rights Activists**

Abortion is not health care- but is the violent destruction of human life. Abortion culture promotes the inhumane and uncivilized belief that people may resort to violence to solve their problems. In order to distract taxpayers from the brutality of their business, the abortion industry maligns and defames peaceful pro-life citizens and organizations who are exercising their First Amendment rights and in many cases, exercising their religion, which calls them to come to the aid of those who are being sent to their death.

In Maryland, at least 6 (six) physical assaults against pro-life citizens in Maryland have been reported to police since 2022 as well as three incidents of vandalism against pregnancy resource centers. (See attachment).

In 2022, **Federal Bureau of Investigation Director, Christopher Wray**, [testified](#) before Congress that roughly 70% of the Bureau's abortion-related violence or threat cases since the illegal leak of the Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, **has been committed by pro-abortion assailants against pro-life victims.**

[\(https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2878435/seventy-percent-of-fbis-abortion-related-violence-cases-have-anti-abortion-victims-since-dobbs-wray/\)](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2878435/seventy-percent-of-fbis-abortion-related-violence-cases-have-anti-abortion-victims-since-dobbs-wray/)

At least 100 pregnancy resource centers and pro-life groups nationwide have been attacked and vandalized since a draft Supreme Court opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* was leaked in early May 2022. Pro-abortion domestic terrorists have claimed responsibility, and delivered on their promise of a "[summer of rage](#)".

### **The State is Failing to Provide Equal Protection**

These documented attacks against pro-life citizens in Maryland should be properly classified as hate crimes and added to the Maryland State Police *Hate Bias Report*, as the victims were peacefully practicing the tenets of their Christian faith. But to date, the state has failed to charge or prosecute any pro-abortion assailants, even known assailants identified by photographic evidence. A longstanding principle of American jurisprudence, which has biblical roots is the phrase popularized by William E. Gladstone "*justice delayed is justice denied*" and in deed justice has been denied to these pro-life citizens.

Similarly, in December 2023, members of Congress have challenged Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke over her department's allegedly discriminatory practices during a House Judiciary Committee hearing. Congressman Chip Roy, R-TX, a former U.S. attorney, questioned Clarke's and the rest of the Biden administration's interpretation of the controversial **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act**. He noted that this law "**protects abortion clinics, pregnancy resource centers, and houses of worship alike.**" "However," he continued, "the division of prosecution under the FACE Act shows a significant bias toward prosecuting FACE Act violations involving abortion clinics." In making this point, Roy specifically referenced the case of pro-life activist [Mark Houch](#), who successfully sued the Biden Department of Justice. (<https://catholicvote.org/house-judiciary-committee-confronts-biden-appointee-over-face-act/>)

Congressman Roy stated that the leak of the Supreme Court's draft *Dobbs* decision "gave rise to widespread demonstrations and attacks on pro-life facilities." He also stated "In fact following the leak, more than a hundred pro-life facilities were vandalized or damaged including by arson," he said. "Two hundred eighteen Catholic churches have been attacked" since the *Dobbs* leak, Roy added, citing CatholicVote's [violence tracker](#).

### **Maryland is State Sponsor of Corporate Abortion**

Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program.

Programs that utilize public funding for abortion, abortion providers or promotion and other abortion-related activities include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland Assembly for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

**No Public Funding** - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 80% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

**Funding Restrictions are Constitutional** - The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that "no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life", and held that there is "no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth



*over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.”*

### **State is Failing Pregnant Women**

Paradoxically, the state ranks among the worst in the nation for infant mortality, preterm birth rates, and has seen a rise in severe maternal morbidity since 2019. Women in underserved communities lack access to high-risk obstetric care, face challenges in obtaining mental and behavioral health services, experience increased rates of substance abuse and overdose, and are deprived of essential perinatal education for healthy pregnancies.

The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.
- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex

trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

**Abortion is not Health Care** – Pregnancy is not a disease and abortion is NOT health care and is never medically necessary. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women.

The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which involves the purposeful termination of fetal human life. Prior to the Supreme Court's imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that both lives can be saved.

Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion providers who are mandatory reporters under the law, refuse to report to law enforcement suspected cases of rape or abuse.

**Abortion is Black Genocide** - Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. It is believed that nearly half of all pregnancies of Black women end in abortion. As a result, Black Americans are no longer the leading minority population, dropping second to the Hispanic population. People of color have long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion by eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in Minority communities. As a result abortion has become the leading killer of Black lives. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide. For more information please see [www.BlackGenocide.org](http://www.BlackGenocide.org).

**For these reasons, we respectfully urge your unfavorable report on this bill and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion. We appeal to you to prioritize the state's interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.**

**REPORTED ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM IN MARYLAND SINCE 2022**

MAY 1, 2022

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Alpha Pregnancy Center, a faith-based pregnancy resource center in Reisterstown, Maryland was vandalized including being spray painted with the words "If Abortions aren't safe, then neither are you". Pro-abortion domestic terrorism group Jane's Revenge took credit for the vandalism but no prosecutions have been initiated.

MAY 4, 2022

FREDERICK COUNTY

Care-Net of Frederick, a faith-based pregnancy resource center was vandalized and spray painted with the words "Go to Planned Parenthood instead." The center was vandalized twice previously.

MAY 8, 2022

FREDERICK COUNTY

BirthRight of Frederick Pregnancy Resource Center was vandalized with graffiti.

JUNE 2, 2022

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Nicholas John Roske made an attempt against the life of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Roske reportedly was upset about the leaked Dobbs decision. He was armed with a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray and duct tape.

MAY 2023

BALTIMORE CITY

Two senior pro-life citizens were brutally beaten while praying and practicing sidewalk advocacy outside of the Planned Parenthood on N. Howard Street. Mark Crosby was beaten and kicked in the face within an inch of his life and suffered permanent injury. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.

JULY 8, 2023

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

83 year old pro-lifer citizen, Olga Fairfax, was brutally attacked while praying outside an abortion facility in Silver Spring, Maryland. A young woman repeatedly punched Olga and sprayed her skin and clothes with spray paint. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.

d aloud | Ask Copilot | 3 of 26



on the sidewalk,' predicted pro-life Olga Fairfax. 'It's a war: God aga



Read aloud | Ask Copilot | 2 of 5



Known assailant in Frederick County assault. License plate blurred but reported to police.

# **SB 975 Written Testimony\_King.pdf**

Uploaded by: Linda King

Position: UNF

SB 975

Senate Finance Committee

March 6, 2024

Unfavorable

My name is Linda King, I am the executive director of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick, Maryland. I am providing testimony in opposition to SB 975, and am asking this committee for an unfavorable report. We have served the community for over 40 years, providing support to pregnant women who would otherwise fall through the cracks.

Our center, located in the heart of historic downtown Frederick, has been the victim of repeated acts of violence.

Most recently, on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the staff arrived at the center to the disturbing scene of graffiti spray painted on the front of our building. Phrases such as: "Not A Real Clinic," "End Forced Motherhood," "Pro-Abortion Go 2 PP Instead," and "Abortion is a Right" were spray painted in black and red paint. This happened after the SCOTUS leak of a draft opinion regarding Roe V Wade. This shocking display of hatred and violence was frightening, but we continued to serve our clients that day.







With the added threat for violence if Roe V Wade was overturned, we quickly needed to take steps to enhance our security measures. In the days that followed the assault on our property, we added the following security measures to protect our clients, volunteers, and staff:

- Armed Guards for a 2 week period
- Installation of 6 security cameras
- Protective film over the door and windows of the lobby
- Installation of a panic arm on the entrance door
- Installation of ground floor window sensors

The cost of expanding security was significant. All of our services are provided free of charge and we are primarily funded through churches and individuals, receiving no government money. We are here to serve our clients and would vastly prefer not to have to siphon money away from our clients to enhance our security.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time our center has been vandalized. We were previously vandalized twice in 2014 in the same manner.

In March of 2014 a brick was thrown through the entrance door shattering the glass, and the same kind of graffiti was spray painted at the entrance, on our sign and various parts of the building.



In September 2014 we once again faced vandalism with more graffiti spray painted on the entrance area and side of our building.

In spite of these tactics, we will not be deterred from doing what we've been doing for 41 years in the Frederick community. Our doors remain open to women and men making a pregnancy decision. Whether they need limited medical services to confirm pregnancy, compassionate education about their options, or helpful classes on pregnancy, parenting, and life skills; we are here for the women, men and families in Frederick.

When people understand what we do, they understand that we are a valuable part of our community. Over the last five years, 100% of our clients have been satisfied with the care and service they received.

In closing, I am asking for an unfavorable vote on SB 975.

Sincerely,

Linda King

Executive Director

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick

707 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701

# MarkCrosby.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Crosby

Position: UNF

**SB975**

Public Public Safety – Reproductive Health Care Clinic  
Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting  
Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

**Unfavorable**

**Mark Crosby**

**Towson, MD**

# **Baltimore pro-lifers assaulted outside Planned Parenthood speak out following brutal attack**

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Days after the brutal assault, pro-life sidewalk counselors Mark Crosby and Dick Schaefer returned to the Baltimore Planned Parenthood where they have faithfully ministered by praying, handing out rosaries, and urging pregnant moms to choose life.

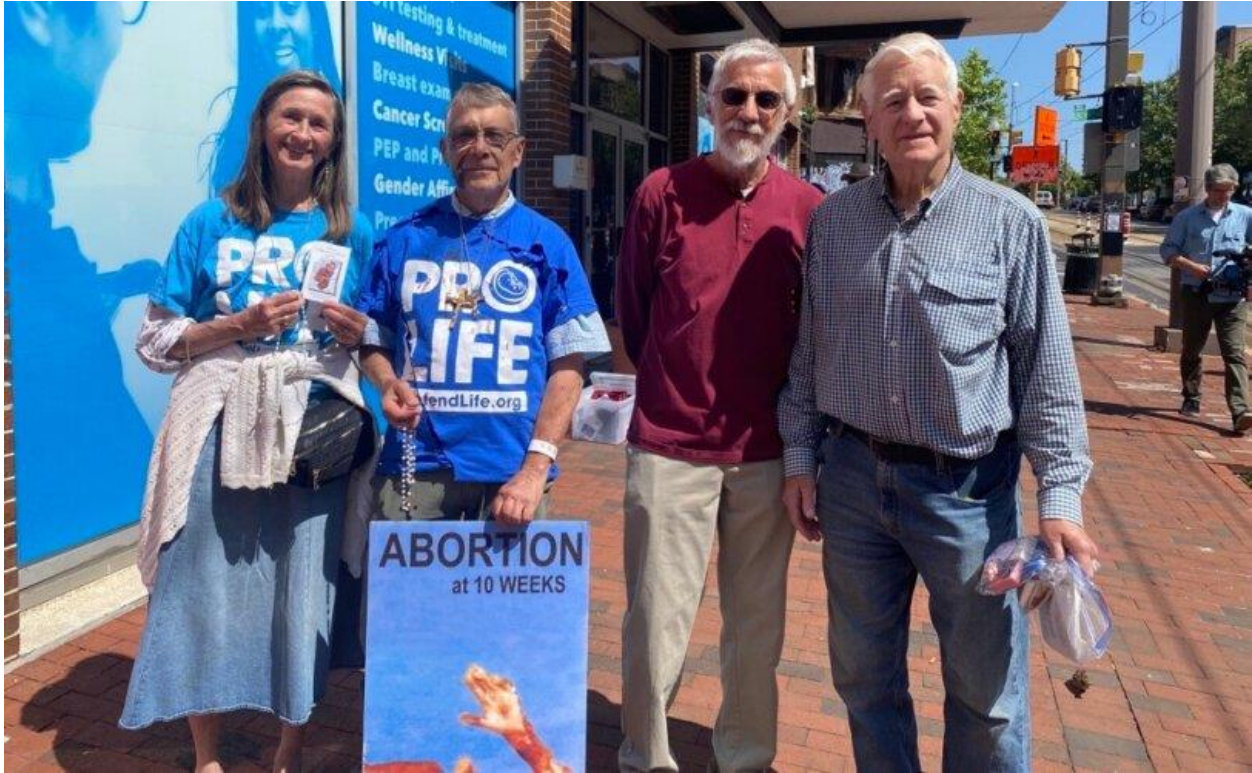


Photo Credit: Jim Hale

BALTIMORE ([LifeSiteNews](#)) — The two elderly pro-life Catholic sidewalk counselors who were violently assaulted outside a Baltimore Planned Parenthood spoke to LifeSiteNews’ Jim Hale in a [video report](#) June 1.

In the video, the men described the attack and called on younger Catholic men to step up to support sidewalk counselors who risk their own physical safety to try to protect the unborn.

LifeSiteNews previously reported that pro-life activists Mark Crosby, 73, and Dick Schafer, 80, were attacked while engaging in their pro-life sidewalk ministry outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility on North Howard Street in Baltimore.

Schafer reportedly recovered at home, but Crosby went to the University of Maryland’s shock trauma facility to receive treatment for serious injuries to his skull and eye socket as well as his knees, and fingers.

His right eye has been blinded and he has suffered a concussion.

In the June 1 video report, Hale noted that only “five days after being savagely beaten,” Crosby and Schafer had already returned to the Baltimore Planned Parenthood where they have engaged in the often thankless and sometimes dangerous work of praying outside the abortion clinic, handing out rosaries, and urging pregnant mothers to choose life.

Clad in the safety-pinned and blood-stained blue “Pro-Life” t-shirt which he had evidently been wearing when he was attacked, Crosby recounted the brutal assault in comments to Hale.



Pro-life sidewalk

counselor Mark Crosby. Photo Credit: Jim Hale.

He said he and Schafer were engaged in their pro-life ministry when a man approached, told Crosby to stay in the street, handed his drink to an abortion “escort,” and then charged into Schafer who had his back to him, causing the pro-life activist to fall against a planter and hit the ground.

“I was worried he was going to be thrown up into the plate-glass window, but he went through the planter,” Crosby told Hale. “Dick hit the ground. He kicks Dick, I come over to help. He grabs my medals and yanks them off. He didn’t get to my rosary.”

Crosby was then “punched, knocked down, and kicked in the head,” according to the [LifeFunder](#) set up to help pay for his medical expenses.

Schaefer said that he had been speaking with someone just before he was attacked, but couldn’t be sure of who assaulted him because he had his back turned at the time.

“When I got hit, I didn’t see anybody,” he said.

According to the Daily Signal, video footage reportedly shared with the Baltimore City Police [indicates](#) the suspect was a white male with brown hair and a beard wearing a gray t-shirt and blue jeans.

A witness said the suspect previously engaged in a “visibly aggressive conversation” with Schaefer before knocking him to the ground.

Planned Parenthood volunteer “escorts” (known to the pro-life advocates as “deathscorts”) refused to comment to Hale about the brutal attack against the two elderly men.

One of the “escorts” told Hale he was not authorized to speak to the press.

“All we try to do is approach a woman, say ‘I have a gift for you,’ there’s free help next door, that sort of thing,” pro-life advocate John Roswell told Hale. “We try to approach [them] in a very loving manner.”

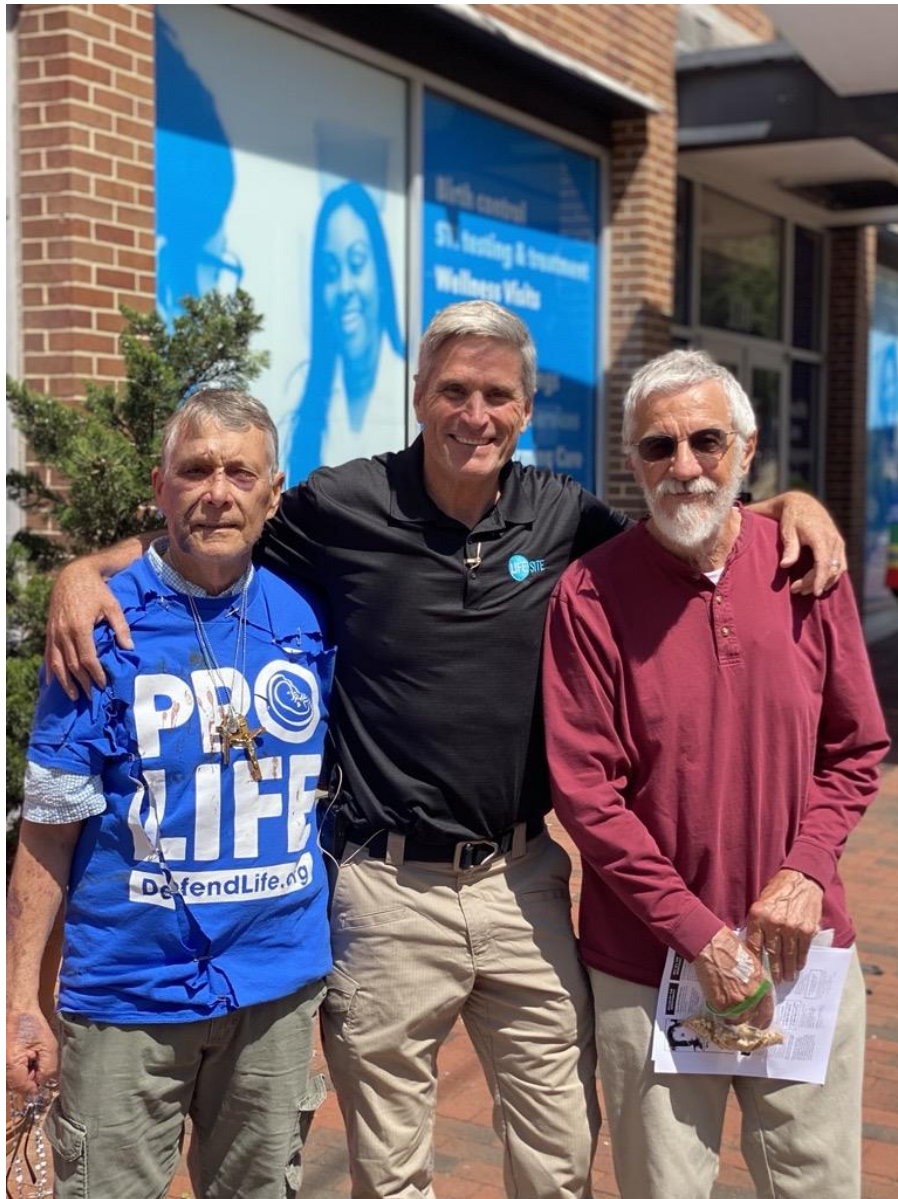
Hale went on to ask another pro-life activist, Elizabeth Lombardi, what “compels” her to continue engaging in her pro-life ministry in spite of the risks.



“Because of the children who die every day, everywhere in the world,” Lombardi said. “Innocent, just like at the time of Christ when innocents were killed because of Christ, and they are still being killed.”

Even while the LifeSite team was on site, a woman who appeared to be headed toward the abortion clinic entered the next-door pro-life pregnancy center instead.

“Praise God,” Hale reacted.



Crosby and Schaefer conveyed to Hale that the recent attack highlights their desperate need for support in their sidewalk counseling efforts, especially from strong, young Catholic men willing to stand up for the unborn.

Crosby told Hale that many men are “afraid” to come out and do sidewalk counseling in front of abortion facilities, but argued that the violent attack against himself and his colleague would not have occurred if they had larger numbers.

“Bishop Strickland said that God wants you to be a man. Society wants you to be a boy,” Crosby said. “We have too many boys out there. We need men.”

“They’re sitting back. They’ve got to come forward. We’re losing our Church. We’re losing babies,” he said.”

He pointed to the [Men’s March](#), which [held](#) its first rally in Washington, D.C. in June, 2021. Hundreds of men and boys took part in the procession, in which they prayed the Rosary and advocated for life.

“Men are the protectors, the providers, the leaders,” John Hinterlong, president of the Right to Life League [said](#). “They should not abdicate their responsibility.”

**SB0975.pdf**

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

SB0975 Public Safety for who? Faith based people are peaceful people, is this a support team to intimidate and harm peaceful protect of murdering babies? Is this bill to end free speech of those to disagree with the death cult and the murdering of innocents? Seems so – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

SAY NO PLEASE, this is a disaster in the making.

Suzanne Price  
AACo, MD