

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1412
Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund

To: Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: 3/6/24

I am an abortion provider and nurse-midwife and I am writing to express my support for HB1412, which aims to establish the Abortion Care Access Grant Program. This crucial legislation seeks to provide funding to improve security and access to abortion care services for individuals in Maryland, ultimately ensuring that reproductive healthcare remains accessible and equitable for all residents.

This fund will provide the necessary resources to support clinics and healthcare facilities, educate law enforcement, and implement initiatives to increase security and protections to abortion care and abortion care facilities. Anti-abortion extremists are being bolder and more brazen in their efforts to stop the provision of abortion care and this bill will allow clinics a wide range of options to strengthen their current security and privacy efforts. Ultimately this bill supports the safety of abortion providers, staff, and patients.

I urge you to support HB1412 and take action to ensure its swift passage. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Christie Pitney, MS, RN, WHNP-BC, CNM