

HB1412_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
3/08/2022

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TESTIMONY ON HB#1412 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund – Establishment

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1412, Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund – Establishment

This bill will help Governor Moore and the State of Maryland meet the goal established by the Governor in which abortion is treated as a health care issue with decisions made by a childbearing individual and their doctor.

“Access to reproductive health care is a fundamental right,” **said Gov. Moore.** “Today, we take another big step forward to protect the health, well-being, and rights of Marylanders – and we will keep working together to ensure that Maryland remains a safe haven for reproductive care.”¹

It was further noted that this bill will support the Moore-Miller administration’s efforts in creating more equity and inclusion leaving no one behind in accessing health care.

“In 2020, more than 60% of Maryland counties had no community-based clinics that provided abortion care. Expanding the pool of clinicians who provide abortion care—particularly in communities where abortions are more difficult to access and for patient populations who experience discrimination within the health care system—is critical to improving equitable access to care across the state.”²

This bill will create funding mechanisms that improve access to abortion care services and place the burden on the insurance carriers and not the taxpayers to equalize this access for all Marylanders requiring abortion care. The fund created will be a nonlapsing fund utilized for that purpose. It removes theocratic definitions of what access to abortion is available to all and replaces it with the recognition that abortion is health care, and everyone has the right to healthcare in this arena without access denial due to lack of financial resources.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1412.

¹ <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-156-million-investment-to-improve-abortion-care-access-statewide.aspx>

² Ibid