

DEL. EDITH J. PATTERSON, DISTRICT 28
President

DEL. NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, DISTRICT 22
President-elect

DEL. DANA C. JONES, DISTRICT 30A
1st Vice-President

DEL. MICHELE J. GUYTON, DISTRICT 42B
2nd Vice-President

DEL. KAREN TOLES, DISTRICT 25
Parliamentarian



DEL. BROOKE GROSSMAN, DISTRICT 2B
Secretary

DEL. PAMELA E. QUEEN, DISTRICT 14
Treasurer

DEL. LINDA K. FOLEY, DISTRICT 15
At Large

DEL. JENNIFER A. WHITE HOLLAND, DISTRICT 10
At Large

WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB1412 Abortion Access Grant Program and Fund - Establishment**.

This bill establishes the Abortion Care Access Grant Program to provide grants to improve access to abortion care services for individuals in the state and requires that certain premium funds collected by health insurance carriers be used to provide certain coverage and to support improving access to abortion care services under certain circumstances. This legislation ensures that the funds that already exist due to the \$1 premium that is present in the Affordable Care Act. This bill seeks to utilize these unused funds in the form of grants to help with services such as security for these centers, costs associated with abortion care, and other programming to support abortion access. This bill would allow these centers to protect themselves as well as the women seeking their help. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support women's access to care as well as their safety and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President