



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Vice Chair, Health & Government Operations  
Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

I would like to express my full support for *House Bill 1412 – Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund*.

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. HB 1412 takes important steps to ensure the safety of reproductive healthcare clinics, their employees and providers, and those they serve. This bill would establish the Abortion Care Access Grant Program to provide grants to improve access to abortion care services for individuals in the State, well as establish the Abortion Care Access Grant Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide grants under the Program, requiring 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.

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 *House Bill 1412 – Abortion Care Access Grant Program and Fund* the highest consideration to further protect the rights of Marylanders who need access to that care.

Sincerely,



David Trone  
Member of Congress