



**Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**Committee:** Finance

**Testimony on:** SB0890 – Abortion Care Access Act

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 23, 2022

**Bill Contact:** Senator Delores Kelley

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members in all districts in Montgomery as well as several nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep residents healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplift all residents, and promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0890 because it will protect and increase access to affordable abortion care in Maryland.

In 1991, the Maryland General Assembly codified the legal right to abortion, as provided by Roe v Wade. Marylanders overwhelmingly supported the ballot measure with 62% of the vote. Maryland is now considered a safe state for abortion rights even if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v Wade. However, that does not mean that all women can actually access abortion care. Access has been reduced by a shortage of trained providers, poor insurance coverage, and anti-abortion rules imposed at the federal level every time there is a shift in power. Furthermore, only 7 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions currently have an abortion care provider.

SB0890 directly addresses these problems and will make sure that women in Maryland can access the care they need. SB0890 recognizes that advanced practice clinicians – including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives/certified midwives, and physician assistants -- are qualified to provide abortion care and key to ensuring access to abortion care in every region of the state.

SB0890 will also increase the ability of health care professionals to get the training they need by providing state support for clinical training in abortion care and will strengthen and streamline insurance coverage for abortion care. These measures will improve access to abortion care for women across Maryland.

There is also an important equity component to SB0890. Communities of color are particularly impacted by limitations on abortion access. Many studies have documented that significant racial and ethnic disparities persist for a wide range of health outcomes, from diabetes to heart disease to breast and cervical cancer to sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV. This is also true for unintended pregnancies and abortion care. Unnecessary barriers to abortion care increase costs and wait times, further exacerbating existing health disparities and economic injustices. SB0890 eliminates unnecessary barriers and will make health care more accessible and affordable for all women in Maryland.

For all these reasons, DTMG strongly supports SB0890 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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