

**SUPPORT – SB 890**  
**Abortion Care Access Act**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kelley:

Maryland women deserve access to accessible abortion care. The Abortion Care Access Act will help ensure that abortion is covered just like any other health care procedure. I wanted to share my own abortion story, and experience of having my abortion paid for by my insurance.

My first child was born when I was 3 months shy of 17, and my second at 18 ½. At 22, I became a single mom of two. When my first child was born, I refused birth control pills because it was a new product with no long-term studies and they had no idea what it might do to a person. After my second child was born, I knew I could not have another child with my spouse, and decided that even if it killed me, I would take the pill.

After about 10 years of taking the pill, I can't remember if it was suggested or something I read, but I decided to give my body a break and went off the pill. I used other methods of birth control, i.e. condoms and keeping track of ovulation, but they failed me. When I realized that I was pregnant, I knew that I could not have another child. The person I was in a relationship with did not have a steady job and I was pretty much living paycheck to paycheck. I felt it would be a disservice to the two children I already had to try and stretch things to another person, so I made the decision to abort. My partner never voiced an opinion about his feelings on the matter and willingly drove me to the clinic in Washington, DC. I was very fortunate that my employer provided me healthcare which covered the service.

From time to time in my life, I have thought about my decision, but I have never regretted it, and I am very grateful that it was readily available to me. I firmly believe that all women deserve that same circumstance, and have been working for years to see that they get it.

Sandy B.