



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 23, 2022

Senate Bill 890

Abortion Care Access Act

Senate Finance Committee

Position: OPPOSE

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. We offer this testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 890.

SB 890 establishes the Abortion Clinical Care Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health and makes substantial changes regarding the requirements related to who may perform abortion in the State.

Given that abortion is ubiquitous in our state, Maryland women are not looking for abortion expansion, such as allowing non-physicians to perform abortions, as this legislation would do, but rather help with basic necessities they need to survive and thrive. National polling indicates that a majority of low-income women identify as prolife and 75% of Latinos and African Americans support abortion restrictions.

Offering abortion without providing alternatives is reproductive coercion. This type of bill rejects the self-determination and bodily autonomy of women, especially low-income women, immigrants, and women of color. Our State should put more emphasis on providing quality prenatal health care to help women experience a healthy pregnancy. Maryland women want support to be able to achieve their dreams and raise their children. It is not more abortion that Maryland needs, but a clear understanding of the diverse demographic in our state and support and resources for growing families.

For these reasons, we urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 890.