

SUPPORT – SB 890
Abortion Care Access Act

Honorable Chair Kelley,

I am currently an international graduate student at NUI: Galway studying Gender, Globalization, and Rights. I am originally from Glen Burnie, Maryland and completed my undergrad at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am a local reproductive justice activist and am proudly pro-abortion because I know abortion saves lives for every individual seeking the healthcare service. I am writing to you to share my support for **Senate Bill 0890**.

Maryland is one of the many states that protects the right to abortion with limited restrictions, and many out-of-state residents travel to Maryland to obtain an abortion. If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, many more patients will be traveling from neighbor states to Maryland to access abortion care, creating a burden for in-state abortion providers and funds. This bill will expand abortion care throughout the state while caring for other out-of-state Americans and/or immigrants living in the United States who experience more strenuous external barriers when obtaining an abortion.

The bill will establish an Abortion Clinical Care Training Program that will help ensure there are more than enough health professionals who can provide abortion care, extending past the norm of only OB/GYNs performing abortions. The bill defines “qualified provider” by physician, nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, licensed-certified midwife, physician assistant, and any other medical professional who is able to practice abortion care; the bill will destigmatize abortion care and will equate abortion as a natural process by widening the definition of “qualified provider.”

As an advocate for cultural and racial inclusive abortion care, I specifically support this bill in which will ensure racial and ethnic diversity among abortion providers. Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) or fake abortion clinics target Latinx populations and exploit the language barriers in healthcare to dissuade Latinas and/or Latinx people from having abortions. I, myself, have learned first-hand the harm CPCs have on those seeking abortion care and I have been shamed for having premarital sex by those who volunteer at CPCs.

I’m sharing this personal story because I want to bring to light that CPCs target vulnerable populations and mislead patients into thinking they are accessing comprehensive reproductive healthcare and accurate information on abortion, especially non-English speakers. This bill will counteract the deception in abortion care by providing immigrants and non-English speaking patients with comprehensive cultural and racial inclusive abortion care in their native language.

For these reasons, I support **Senate Bill 0890- Abortion Care Access Act** I would like to thank you for considering your support for this bill and hope that you can join me in mine. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Siebenhaar
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061