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CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

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JAMIE RASKIN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

February 22, 2022

Chair Delores G. Kelley
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Chair Kelley,


Greetings to you and all my wonderful former colleagues in the Senate. I write simply to say I wholeheartedly support your legislative efforts to protect women's right to comprehensive health care, including abortion access, in Maryland.

Since 1973, American women have had the constitutional right to seek an abortion in consultation with their physician. That fundamental right is now threatened by extremist judges and right-wing lawmakers. In the pending case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court's ruling faction is poised to jettison nearly five decades of constitutional precedent affirming women's rights of reproductive freedom. Last year, Texas enacted its infamous anti-abortion bounty hunter law, and – with the tacit blessing of the anti-choice justices who appear eager to dismantle women's rights – other states are not far behind.

As the Republican onslaught against abortion access intensifies and women's freedom and bodily autonomy hang in the balance, we must ensure that Maryland prepares to defend women's right of access to comprehensive care. Marylanders have long stood strong for human rights and reproductive freedom but, as you know, we now have urgent work to do. When more states inevitably enact draconian abortion bans and restrictions, more women will be forced to cross state lines to seek care in Maryland. However, there are already insufficient abortion providers in Maryland, and significant areas of our state have none at all. We must also strengthen our insurance coverage requirements, especially to protect low-income Marylanders.

Given these multiple pressing challenges, I deeply appreciate and strongly support your careful and timely work to bolster our abortion care workforce and ensure that all women in Maryland can access safe and affordable health care, including abortion care. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony, and for your crucial and historic efforts to protect abortion access in Maryland.

Very Truly Yours,


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress