

Senate Bill 0890 - **Oppose** Abortion Care Access Act

My name is John Quinn. I serve as the Business Operations Assistant with the DFLA Education Fund. As a resident of Maryland and a proud pro-life Democrat, I oppose Senate Bill 0890. As a Democrat, I value nonviolence and equality. This legislation advances neither of those values.

Without for a second denying the various financial, social, emotional, mental, and physical challenges of pregnancy, childbirth, and parenthood, we can question if abortion is a dignified and effective response to those challenges. Abortion deliberately ends the life of a preborn child and so abortion is properly understood as violence. Our system of government rightfully prohibits violence against our fellow human beings. Instead of diminishing the violence of abortion, this bill would augment it, and so must be opposed.

Furthermore, the violence of abortion fails to advance the equality of women in our society. If this legislation is passed, more preborn girls will lose their lives to abortion violence. Crucially, the aforementioned challenges that lead women to consider abortion will be left unaddressed. For example, the Maryland Department of Health currently prohibits grants to pregnancy centers which do not provide abortion but do provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and other care and resources to mothers. The state of Maryland clearly communicates to its citizens that it will support them in terminating pregnancies, but will not lift a finger if they want to carry their child to term.

Our societal systems push women into abortion rather than providing robust investment in those women and their families. As this legislation furthers that harmful trend, I ask the Committee to table it.

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