



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

SUPPORT – SB 890
Abortion Care Access Act

Dear Honorable Chair Kelley,

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster, a collaborative initiative of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation, strongly supports Senate Bill 890, the Abortion Care Access Act, which would establish the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program and affirm abortion care as within the scope of practice of advanced practice clinicians. This legislation also ensures that abortion care is covered like any other health care service by both private insurance and Medicaid so as to provide equal abortion coverage without obstacles like cost-sharing and deductible requirements.

Our APC Cluster represents nearly 300 nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, physician assistants, and students who support protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care across the country. As clinicians in reproductive health care, we know that patients' rights to receive abortion care are often nullified by the many barriers they face in accessing it. Maryland, a state where 75% of counties currently do not have abortion providers, will very likely become a haven for access to both abortion care and training by passing SB 890, particularly as it sees an influx of out-of-state patients in response to other highly restrictive regulations across state lines. This is because SB 890 would add Maryland to the list of fourteen other states that already affirm the provision of abortion care as within the scope of practice of advanced practice clinicians. It also establishes the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program to create a pathway for more providers to integrate this essential care into their practices and provide ongoing training for clinicians in abortion care.

Still, access cannot be realized without addressing inequity and discrimination in insurance, which is why SB 890 ensures that abortion care is covered like any other health care service by both private insurance and Medicaid. We know that low-income Marylanders are the least likely to be able to afford abortion care, and even those with insurance coverage are often required by cost-sharing and deductibles to pay entirely out-of-pocket for their care, which can make an abortion impossible for those in need. We need SB 890 to ensure that our patients can rely on permanent coverage.



Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Organizer Lily Trotta at lily@reproductiveaccess.org or 646-893-4356.

Sincerely

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation