

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

February 23, 2022

SUPPORT – SB 890
Abortion Care Access Act

Dear Honorable Chair Kelley:

My name is Allison Claytor, and I am a billing specialist at Potomac Family Planning Center, an abortion clinic in Montgomery County that provides abortion care up to 17 weeks gestation and accepts Maryland Medicaid. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 890, Abortion Care Access Act.

When I learned how to verify and bill Maryland Medicaid insurances, I truly didn't realize the impact it would make on my patients. Every appointment I make, I always make sure patients know that we take insurances. Many patients don't know Maryland Medicaid will cover for abortion services. There was a time after verifying a patient's insurance, the patient disclosed to me, "To get this appointment, I would have had to spend the money on the abortion instead of Christmas gifts for my kids. But now I can use my insurance and still have Christmas." Maryland Medicaid has helped so many of our patients, and I hear all the time just how blessed these patients are to have this insurance, especially one including abortion coverage, which is a necessity in women's healthcare.

In the cases where Maryland Medicaid does not cover abortion services, it is so detrimental to the patient to find funding fast. This is a difficult and confusing process for some patients, especially if there is an issue with the insurance, such as having an old secondary insurance still on the Medicaid account. For the patients who cannot get the care they need with their Medicaid coverage, sometimes it's impossible to pay out of pocket for abortion care – they simply don't have the resources. While Medicaid is a great resource, there are some changes that need to be made to make this work for all patients and ensure Marylanders collective right to bodily autonomy.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I urge a favorable report on SB 890. If you have any further questions, you can reach me at aclaytor@potomacfamilyplanning.com.

Sincerely,

Allison Claytor
Billing Specialist
Potomac Family Planning Center