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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 890

TITLE: Abortion Care Access Act

SPONSOR: Senator Kelley

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 890 –Abortion Care Access Act. This legislation would expand the type of health providers who are able to administer an abortion and provide funds for expanded training for healthcare providers.

The COVID-19 pandemic identified great inequity and inaccessibility in the healthcare system. In response, officials at every level of government stepped up to amend many of the legislative barriers to care, including the expansion of rules for telehealth and granting more healthcare providers the ability to administer vaccinations. These provisions allowed many to access healthcare in ways they were never able to before. It is vital that leaders continue to remove legislative barriers to necessary and vital healthcare services.

Senate Bill 890 would continue this work by expanding those eligible to perform abortions to providers such as nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, licensed certified midwives and physician assistants for whom abortion services are within the scope of their license or certification. It would also increase the quality and safety of services by administering grants for abortion care training for health care providers. Therefore, this legislation will expand access and quality of healthcare services throughout the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 890. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.