



C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

February 23, 2022

Chair Delores G. Kelley
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair Kelley:

I write today in strong support of Maryland's Abortion Care Access Package, Senate Bill 890, House Bill 937 and House Bill 952, which take critical steps to uphold the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* and ensure bodily autonomy for Marylanders.

The Maryland Abortion Care Access Package expands abortion access in counties across Maryland – two thirds of which do not currently have access to abortion clinics – by repealing outdated restrictions on the provision of abortion care and providing clinical education opportunities. This legislation also ensures private insurance and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program provide equal abortion coverage without imposing harmful obstacles to care like cost-sharing and deductible requirements. Marylanders' access to legal abortion services should not be limited by lack of insurance coverage or healthcare provider services.

Should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned, 26 states are expected to ban or severely limit abortions – causing 36 million Americans to lose access to abortion. In 2021 alone, states across the nation enacted over 100 abortion restrictions. Restrictions in neighboring states could lead to an increase in patients traveling from out of state, delaying care for both Marylanders and those traveling to Maryland for services. It is crucial Maryland addresses this issue proactively.

As legislators, we should be focused on partnering at all levels of government to empower women to make healthcare decisions based on what is best for them. Reproductive healthcare is healthcare – and thus, a fundamental right.

I firmly believe the measures outlined in this important package of legislation are essential to protecting Marylanders' access to abortion services. I thank you for your consideration of this testimony, and I urge a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress

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