

DAVID TRONE  
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February 18, 2022

Senator Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Vice Chair, Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health & Government Operations  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Vice Chair, Health & Government Operations  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, Chair Pendergrass, and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk,

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 890 Abortion Care Access Act, House Bill 937 Abortion Care Access Act, and House Bill 952 Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act. At a time when exercising the right to have an abortion is facing its greatest threat in half a century, we must take steps to protect the right to abortion care in the great state of Maryland.

These pieces of legislation will ensure that Maryland has enough abortion providers. Abortion care is a critical component of healthcare, and healthcare shouldn't be dependent on your zip code. Unfortunately, two-thirds of Maryland counties do not have abortion providers. Maryland is behind the curve - we must allow nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, licensed midwives, and physician assistants to provide this critical care. We must also support clinical education in abortion care to increase the amount of providers in the field and reduce the stigma associated with abortion. Additionally, we have to ensure abortion care is covered like other essential healthcare services. No one should be prevented from receiving this care because of their insurance status.

In Congress, I am working with my colleagues to do my part to ensure abortion care is accessible and protected for all. I am an original cosponsor of H.R.3755, the Women's Health Protection Act, which

would prohibit government restrictions on abortion services, such as requiring unnecessary procedures and unwarranted provider credentialing. I am also an original cosponsor of H.R. 2234, the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act. This would require federally funded health insurance, including Medicaid, Tricare, and insurance for federal employees, to provide coverage for abortion services, essentially eliminating the Hyde Amendment, which has created unjust disparities in access to abortion. I also supported the House-passed FY22 funding bills, which - for the first time in decades - excluded the Hyde Amendment.

As I call on my colleagues in Congress to take action, I now call on my colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly to do their part. It is time for Maryland to take steps towards protecting this critical piece of healthcare. We must act now.

I fully support Senate Bill 890, House Bill 937, and House Bill 952, and urge the members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health & Government Operations Committee to give these bills all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", with a stylized, cursive script.

David Trone

Member of Congress