



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 22, 2022

House Bill 952

Access to Abortion Care & Health Insurance Act

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: OPPOSE

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. We offer this testimony in opposition of House Bill 952.

HB 952 establishes certain requirements regarding abortion care services, including provision and coverage requirements on the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations.

Marylanders should not be required to subsidize the taking of innocent life by an expansion of abortion as proposed in this legislation. Given that abortion is ubiquitous in our state, Maryland women are not looking for abortion expansion but rather help with basic necessities they need to survive and thrive. National polling shows that a majority Latinos and African Americans support abortion restrictions.

Expanding insurance coverage for abortion without providing alternatives is reproductive coercion. This type of bill rejects the self-determination and bodily autonomy of women, especially low-income women, immigrants, and women of color. Maryland women want support to be able to achieve their dreams and raise their children. It is not more abortion that Maryland needs, but a clear understanding of the diverse demographic in our state and support and resources for growing families.

For these reasons, we urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 952.

