

**SUPPORT – HB 952**  
**Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Pendergrass:

Maryland women deserve access to accessible abortion care. HB 952 will help ensure that abortion is covered just like any other health care procedure. I wanted to share my own abortion story, and how important it was for me that my employer provided health insurance which covered the care entirely.

My first child was born when I was 3 months shy of 17, and my second at 18 ½. At 22, I became a single mom of two. When my first child was born, I refused birth control pills because it was a new product with no long-term studies and they had no idea what it might do to a person. After my second child was born, I knew I could not have another child with my spouse, and decided that even if it killed me, I would take the pill.

After about 10 years of taking the pill, I can't remember if it was suggested or something I read, but I decided to give my body a break and went off the pill. I used other methods of birth control, i.e. condoms and keeping track of ovulation, but they failed me. When I realized that I was pregnant, I knew that I could not have another child. The person I was in a relationship with did not have a steady job and I was pretty much living paycheck to paycheck. I felt it would be a disservice to the two children I already had to try and stretch things to another person, so I made the decision to abort. My partner never voiced an opinion about his feelings on the matter and willingly drove me to the clinic in Washington, DC. I was very fortunate that my employer provided me healthcare which covered the service.

From time to time in my life, I have thought about my decision, but I have never regretted it, and I am very grateful that it was readily available to me. I firmly believe that all women deserve that same circumstance, and have been working for years to see that they get it. I urge a favorable vote on HB 952.

Sandy B.