



Chair Shane E. Pendergrass
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass,

On behalf of the Medical Students For Choice Chapter at the University of Maryland School of Medicine I strongly support House Bill HB 952 - Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act. This bill will ensure abortion care is covered like any other health care service by requiring private insurance and Medicaid to provide equal abortion coverage without imposing obstacles such as cost-sharing and deductible requirements.

As part of Medical Students for Choice, we believe that all people should have access to health services that allow them to lead safe, healthy lives including all aspects of sexual and reproductive health consistent with their own personal and cultural values. However, currently in Maryland there is a lack of access with two-thirds of Maryland counties lacking abortion providers. This limits people's ability to access care. Especially since 75% of people who access abortion care are low-income they may lack the resources to access abortion in a timely and affordable manner with transportation obstacles and minimal insurance coverage. Furthermore, abortion care only get more expensive with each passing week after the first 10-12 weeks gestation. These are limiting factors that impact people's health and livelihood. Therefore we are urging Maryland's Legislative House to expand provider access and training in Maryland to expand abortion care providers so more people can access the care they need.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Hannah Palmer at hpalmer@som.umaryland.edu

Sincerely,

Hannah Palmer

Co-President of the Medical Students For Choice Chapter at the University of Maryland School of Medicine