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HB 952
Access to Abortion Care & Health Insurance Act
Hearing of the House Health & Government Operations Committee
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1:00 PM

SUPPORT

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Health Rights Project supports policies and practices that promote the overall health of Marylanders struggling to make ends meet, with the explicit goal of promoting strategies that work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes. **PJC stands in strong support of HB 952**, the Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act, which would protect access to abortion care in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid), other insurers and health plans. It would also require the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to adopt regulations to provide a subsidy to cover the cost of insurance premiums.

The state of Maryland has recognized the importance of access to abortion care for low-income women for decades. Maryland is one of 16 states that supplies its own state funds to cover abortion care for Medicaid beneficiaries in certain circumstances. In fact, nearly half of the women who have abortions live below the federal poverty line. However, the constitutional right to abortion as solidified in *Roe v. Wade* could be dismantled by a case that the Supreme Court will hear this summer. If passed, HB 952 would safeguard access to abortion care for women in Maryland, thus preserving this human right to health care.

For these reasons, the Public Justice Center urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for **HB 952**. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Ashley Black at 410-625-9409 x 224 or blacka@publicjustice.org.