



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

Dear Honorable Chair Pendergrass,

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster, a collaborative initiative of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation, strongly supports HB 952, the Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act. This bill ensures that abortion care is covered like any other health care service by both private insurance and Medicaid so as to provide equal abortion coverage without obstacles like cost-sharing and deductible requirements.

Our APC Cluster represents nearly 300 nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, physician assistants, and students who support protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care across the country. As clinicians in reproductive health care, we know that patients' rights to receive abortion care are often nullified by the many barriers they face in accessing it.

Access to abortion care cannot be realized without addressing inequity and discrimination in insurance. We know that low-income Marylanders are the least likely to be able to afford abortion care, and even those with insurance coverage are often required by cost-sharing and deductibles to pay entirely out-of-pocket for their care, which can make an abortion impossible for those in need. We need HB 952 to ensure that our patients can rely on permanent coverage.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Organizer Lily Trotta at lily@reproductiveaccess.org or 646-893-4356.

Sincerely

The Advanced Practice Clinician (APC) Cluster of the Reproductive Health Access Network, Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the National Abortion Federation