

OPPOSE HB0952 - TESTIMONY BY SAVANNAH ACKERMAN

As a lifelong Maryland resident I oppose HB0952, the Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act, sponsored by Delegate Ariana Kelly and other delegates. I would much rather see time and taxpayer funds going to improve the systematic injustices that contribute to women feeling they need to have an abortion, even if they do not want one. Why not make it easier for women to have children if they want to? I was eligible for Medicaid for pregnant women when I had my son but not when I had my daughter. I have insurance from my full-time employer and am still paying off the nearly \$900 it cost me to deliver my daughter. I had to go on short term disability through my insurance company and received such little compensation that my parents had to cover my rent for the month until I could start working again. I would love to see my representatives support women who are in situations like mine. Please work to reduce unwanted abortions that women receive when they have no other choice.

Ending a pregnancy is such a hard decision for a women to make we should be doing everything in our power to reduce the number of abortions by expanding and investing in support systems that address the reason that women get them.

Please put systems in place that would have helped me in my situation. Please stop telling women abortion is their only option or that my children should not be alive simply because I had financial struggles. I have seen firsthand that the push for unrestricted abortion only perpetuate (primarily male employers) to treat children as a choice. If a women chooses to have children that is her problem. If she does not continue to function as if she doesn't have them then she is open to scrutiny for staying home when children are sick, having to take vacation or sick days when children are sick, or in my case treated as a burden for taking a mere 6 weeks off after the birth of my son.

Access to maternity leave, accessible childcare, better healthcare for women is the answer. No increased abortion. I ask that this bill be rejected and that instead time and energy be invested into systems that will actually help women in Maryland.

Savannah Ackerman

Working mother of 2 who sees the real injustices and lack of actual resources for mothers every day

13700 Kilarney Court

Phoenix, MD 21131