



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE INSIDE

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HB 952 – Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act

SUPPORT

Chairman Pendergrass
Vice Chair Pena-Melynk
Members of the House Health and General Operations Committee

Reproductive Justice Inside (RJI) and our coalition members and our statewide and national partners stand in support of HB 952.

Reproductive Justice Inside is Maryland's only statewide coalition working to address the needs of systems-involved individuals and their access to quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare and the right to parent with dignity. To this end, we are steadfast in our belief of bodily autonomy and abortion as a fundamental human right.

However, we know that access – particularly for low-income, Black, Indigenous and people of color are limited both by provider shortages and poor to non-existent health coverage. Currently, Maryland Medicaid's coverage of abortion is subject to debate each year and only allows for care to be covered in certain circumstances. Low-income Marylanders – those who are least likely to afford abortion care on their own – should be able to rely on permanent coverage. For individuals with private insurance, cost-sharing and deductibles often require people to pay entirely out-of-pocket for their care, which can put abortion out of reach.

We stand in support of this legislation as a recognition that our movements are intersectional, and individuals in the communities that we serve have had—will continue to have —abortions.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 952.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven
Executive Director
Reproductive Justice Inside