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Support
HB 952 – Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act
House Health and Government Operations Committee
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My name is Lorraine Layman, a resident of Baltimore Md, and I support HB 952 – Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act. This bill would require abortion care be covered by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and other state-regulated health plans.

About 15 years ago, I was pregnant, and initially, I was excited. I posted the sonogram to social media. I told family members. But something wasn't right.

That something was my abusive partner. When you're in a relationship, you can't always see the big picture. When I posted those photos, when I was telling family, I wasn't seeing the big picture. Then I had the opportunity to think about it.

If this is the way he treated me, how was he going to treat a child? I couldn't bring a child into the world just to suffer the abuse I was suffering.

Thankfully, reproductive coercion wasn't one of the ways he was abusive. He even went so far as to recommend an abortion clinic and pay for the procedure. How did he know about the provider? He had impregnated someone else recently and paid for her procedure, as well.

Not every abuse victim has the outlets I had. It's not hard for me to imagine a world where my former partner's abuse extended to reproductive coercion. It's not hard for me to imagine a world where he withheld money. This is the sad reality for too many Marylanders.

We need to live in a Maryland where abuse victims don't have to rely on their abusive partners to pay for their health care. Where their abusive partners have financial control over them. Ensuring that abortion is covered by medical assistance and fully covered by other state-regulated health plans means people living in such relationships can freely choose not to tie themselves to their partners.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB 952. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.