



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate David Moon, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 6th, 2023
RE: HB0808 Abortion – Protection for Care of Out-of-State Consumers

The MLLC supports HB0808 Abortion Protection for care of Out-of-State Consumers

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0808.

Maryland is home to one of few abortion clinics in the United States that offers abortions in the latter stages of pregnancy.¹ Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in late June 2022, the clinic's staff has worked overtime to provide care to the influx of out-of-state patients, who now account for a large portion of patients, and numerous referrals come from the South.² Additionally, many states have much stricter abortion laws, such as Texas, which allows citizens to bring lawsuits against other Texans involved in helping a person receive an abortion.³ The staff from facilities which have closed due to stricter laws have been referring Texas patients to their clinics outside the state, including its Baltimore location.⁴ However, workers at clinics in states with similar laws, such as Georgia, said for fear of running afoul of the law, they have been told not to refer patients to clinics outside the state. Instead, they can only refer patients to abortionfinder.org.⁵ Moreover, there are not just states with severely restricted access to reproductive care, but states with former clinic providers who have had to restrict their distribution of helpful information for patients who are seeking out-of-state care.

The Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* will impact Latinas the most among women of color, as 42% percent of Latinas live in the 26 states that have banned or are likely to ban abortions.⁶ Essentially more than 5 million Latinas could be negatively impacted, as these Latinas of child-bearing age live in states with strict anti-abortion policies, making them vulnerable to being disproportionately affected.⁷ Additionally, given the fact that Latinas earn, on

¹ Zimmardi, A. (2022, September 15). *Maryland Becomes Haven for Out-of-state Abortion Seekers, Providers*. CNS Maryland. <https://cnsmaryland.org/2022/09/15/maryland-becomes-haven-for-out-of-state-abortion-seekers-providers/>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Acevedo, N. (2022, November 1). *Abortion Bans Impact Latinas the Most Among Women of Color*. NBCNews.com. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/latinis-most-impacted-abortion-bans-study-rcna54793>.

⁷ Evans, M. (2022, December 20). *Roe vs. Wade Reversal Could Affect Millions of Latinas, UCLA Study Finds*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-12-20/roe-vs-wade-reversal-impact-on-latinas-ucla-study>.

average, only 55 cents for every dollar a non-Hispanic white man earns⁸, and that many left the workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic to help with child care or elder care, it has been challenging for them to regain economic footing.⁹ This challenge would make it difficult for them to pay for abortion care and other needs like traveling to different states if necessary for the procedure.¹⁰ Overall, not only will Latinas struggle the most to receive reproductive health care, but they are the most likely demographic to be civilly or criminally charged from out-of-state parties if they do. The passing of this bill will protect licensed, certified, or anyone who provides reproduction care against civil and criminal charges from parties outside of Maryland.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0808.

⁸ California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. (2023). *Latina Equal Pay Day*. CCSWG. <https://women.ca.gov/latina-equal-pay-day/>.

⁹ Evans, *Roe v. Wade Reversal*.

¹⁰ *Ibid*.