



TESTIMONY FOR SB0975 Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Elfreth

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0975 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act in Maryland aims to enhance the safety and security of reproductive health care clinics. The Act establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

The program's purpose is to assist reproductive health care clinics in the state with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. This funding will support eligible clinics in enhancing their security measures.

One of our Coalition members in "mountain Maryland" recently told us about intimidating protests at an abortion clinic that hadn't even opened yet! We need to make our new patients from Maryland and beyond feel safe when receiving this essential healthcare.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of patients and staff at reproductive health care clinics is crucial, and this act takes a step toward achieving that goal.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.