



Bill No: SB848  
Title: Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment  
Committee: Finance  
Hearing: March 6, 2025  
Position: FAVORABLE

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The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB848 - Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment** is a priority on the [2025 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

**SB848** supports reproductive freedom and autonomy in Maryland. The bill will provide direct funding of abortion services and practical support services such as travel and child care. Individuals who are pregnant face significant barriers to obtaining abortion care including stigma, marginalization from the healthcare system, and cost. The Abortion Care Access Fund Act of 2025 will support women in navigating these barriers by providing financial support for the services they need to effectuate their reproductive health decisions.

Maryland enshrined the right to abortion in the Maryland Constitution with Question 1 on November 5, 2024. However, the right to abortion does not equate to access. Maryland’s abortion providers are on the verge of a crisis because funding for abortion care has dropped dramatically. Many providers rely on abortion funds to support care for people who are uninsured or underinsured. Abortion funds also support people who are too afraid to use their insurance, as they fear their spouse, parent or family member might find out. While there was a surge of donations to abortion funds following the Dobbs decision, those donations have dropped precipitously. Many abortion funds only have enough money to open about 3 days a week, leaving many people who need resources without anywhere to turn. Unlike other women’s health services, such as family planning or cancer screening, there are NO public health grant programs for abortion care. This situation is the legacy of federal restrictions such as the Hyde amendment.

The Abortion Care Access Fund Act of 2025 will ensure abortion remains accessible in Maryland to all, regardless of income level or insurance status. The fund will support abortion services as well as practical support services, such as travel and child care.

The Fund is made possible by tapping into unspent insurance premiums for abortion coverage. As a result of an obscure provision of the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies are forced to overcharge for abortion coverage (\$12 for each person a year), yet they are not allowed to spend those funds on anything other than abortion. As a result, insurers accrue about \$3 million in unspent abortion premiums a year. By the end of this year, insurers will have an accumulated surplus of about \$25 million collected over the past 10 years. The bill will transfer these funds to the Maryland Department of Health to distribute to non-profit organizations with abortion funds.

With this bill, Maryland would be the first-in-the-national to establish this type of fund. We can set a precedent for other states also seeking to shore-up abortion access. We urge you to support of **SB848**.

**Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women**  
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## MLAW 2025 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East  
AAUW Anne Arundel County  
AAUW Garrett Branch  
AAUW Howard County  
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch  
AAUW Maryland  
Anne Arundel County NOW  
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence  
Calvert County Democratic Womens' Club  
Charles County Commission for Women  
Child Justice, Inc.  
City of College Park MD  
Court Watch Montgomery  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter  
FinnCORE, Inc.  
Frederick County Commission for Women  
Interfaith Action for Human Rights  
Kids for Saving Earth  
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence  
Montgomery County Commission for Women  
Montgomery County, MD, NOW  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter  
NCBWSOMD  
Salam Sudan Foundation (SSF)  
ShareBaby, Inc.  
Stella's Girls Incorporated  
SUB&S LLC  
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center of UMB  
Trans Maryland  
Unrooted Culture  
Women of Honor International  
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland Coalition  
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
Zonta Club of Annapolis

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