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## **RE: Testimony on Senate Bill 848 – FAV**

Dear Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hayes, and Members of the committee,

We strongly support **Senate Bill 848**, which establishes the **Public Health Abortion Grant Program Fund** to expand access to abortion care across Maryland. This bill ensures dedicated state funding and directs certain abortion care-related premiums into the fund, supporting clinical services and breaking down financial barriers to care. As federal threats to abortion funding intensify and restrictions like the [Hyde Amendment](#) continue to deny coverage, it is critical that states take proactive steps to safeguard equitable access. Without this investment, countless individuals will be left without the care they need, deepening health disparities and undermining reproductive freedom.

At [All\\* Above All](#), we have been leading the fight for abortion justice since 2013, launching as a women of color-led initiative to restore and protect public insurance coverage of abortion. In 2021, we expanded our mission to address broader barriers to abortion access, working at every level to ensure that everyone—regardless of income, race, or zip code—can make their own reproductive decisions.

Across Maryland, many individuals—especially those who are uninsured, underinsured, or facing systemic barriers—struggle to access timely and affordable abortion care. Financial constraints, provider shortages, and restrictive policies disproportionately harm low-income communities, Black and Brown individuals, and those in rural areas. Without adequate state funding, many are forced to delay or forgo care, exacerbating health disparities and placing abortion access even further out of reach.

SB 848 directly tackles these challenges by creating a dedicated funding mechanism to support clinical abortion services. By securing state resources and directing abortion care-related premiums into the fund, this bill strengthens the provider network and reduces financial obstacles for patients. Uninsured and underinsured individuals stand to benefit the most, gaining access to the care they need without facing economic hardship or political interference.

Maryland has been a long leader in protecting and expanding reproductive freedom, and SB 848 continues this legacy. By pioneering a funding model that no other state has implemented, Maryland is setting a national precedent—one that can be replicated in other states to secure access in communities across the country. This bill is not just about protecting abortion care in Maryland; it is about shaping the future of abortion access nationwide.

We urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass **SB 848** and reaffirm the state's commitment to reproductive freedom, equity, and justice.

Sincerely,

Lexi White  
Director of State Strategies

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