



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill 0848 - Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment
Finance Committee – March 6, 2025**

SUPPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2025 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of [SB0848 - Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment](#). This bill will establish a State Special Fund and grant program to provide operating grants to Maryland clinical abortion care providers to enable them to serve individuals who have insufficient resources to pay for these services and for whom the use of federal funds is prohibited. This program will be funded by surplus insurance premiums that the Affordable Care Act requires Qualified Health Plans to set aside in segregated accounts for abortion coverage. These surplus insurance premium funds will be transferred annually to the segregated, non-lapsing State Special Fund. No tax dollars are required. Organizations receiving these grants may not restrict the use of these funds in a manner that is inconsistent with Maryland Law, such as requiring spousal consent. This grant program will be administered by the Maryland State Department of Health. The Department will be prohibited from disclosing any identifying information about those seeking or providing abortion care services through this grant program.

Maryland is a safe harbor for abortion care. However, Maryland abortion care providers are struggling to keep up with demand and some are in danger of closing because of a lack of funds. The federal Hyde amendment prevents federal funds from being used for elective abortion care. Passage of this bill will help Maryland clinical abortion providers have sufficient funds to stay open and ensure that women seeking access to clinical abortion care will be able to receive this care, regardless of their ability to pay or fear of retaliation. This program will be a national model for other States.

We ask for your support for SB0848 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Tazeen Ahmad
WDC President

Ginger Macomber
WDC Reproductive Health
Subcommittee

Diana Conway
WDC Advocacy Co-Chair