



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE

March 4, 2025

RE: FAV/Supporting SB 848: Public Health Abortion Grant Program

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Action, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **SB 848** a bill that will ensure people in Maryland not only have the right to reproductive freedom but also that they can actually access abortion care.

SiX's Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council (RFLC) is the country's only network of state legislators who champion reproductive health, rights, and justice. The RFLC network is made up of 600+ visionary leaders who are changing the game to achieve an equitable, resilient, healthy, and prosperous future - including reproductive freedom for all.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* created chaos across our country as millions of people lost access to abortion care. Patients now travel hundreds of miles for abortion care, and often have to pay out of pocket for this critical healthcare.

SB 848/HB 930 is an innovative, first-of-its kind solution to this funding gap. Sponsors Delegate Lesley Lopez and Senator Guy Guzzone have led with their values by ensuring the grant does not discriminate on the basis of insurance coverage, immigration status, or state residency. This legislation could be a powerful template that could be replicated across the country in other states that protect abortion care.

SiX writes today in support of SB 848 because it will protect abortion care and affirms Maryland as a state committed to reproductive freedom.

Sincerely,

Rosann Mariappuram, J.D., M.A.
she/her
Senior Policy Counsel, Reproductive Rights
State Innovation Exchange
1360 Regent St PMB 257
Madison, WI 53715