



**Testimony in Support of SB0848
Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
Hearing March 6, 2025**

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FAVORABLE

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TO: Sen Pamela Beidle, Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
FROM: Nancy Braverman and Barbara Deitch, Co-Presidents
Hadassah Greater Baltimore

Presidents

Nancy Braverman
Barbara Deitch

On behalf of the Greater Baltimore Region of Hadassah, representing over 4,100 Marylanders, we are writing to urge you to **vote FOR SB 0848 Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment**

Vice Presidents

Melissa Brill
Michelle Cines
Andrea Polsky
Rachel Raphael
Harriet Rubinson
Carly Schwartz
Carol Wynne

Hadassah firmly believes that every woman must have the right to control her own reproductive future, including if, when and how to have children. We believe that the whole spectrum of reproductive health services – including fertility treatment, maternal and post-partum care, contraception and abortion – are all critical components of women’s health care that must be protected.

Recording Secretary

Robin Sakin

Now that we have enshrined the right to abortion in the Maryland state constitution following the overwhelming passage of Question 1, this legislation (SB 848) will create an innovative program to secure access to that right.

Treasurer

Rona Pepper

This bill will create a public health grant program to support equitable access to abortion care in Maryland. The program will provide support for abortion care to people who are uninsured and underinsured and will be managed by the Department of Health, just as all other public health grant programs.

Annual Giving Chairs

Amy Bober Schenerman
Carol Renbaum

The program is funded by unspent premiums for abortion coverage. Since those funds cannot be returned, the legislation reinvests the funding in public health grants. There are approximately ~ \$25 million accumulated in surplus funds between 2014-2024 and it’s anticipated that the surplus funds will accrue an additional \$3 million a year.

Major Giving Chair

Jackie Cohen

Hadassah Greater Baltimore urges a favorable report on SB 0848 to affirm Maryland’s commitment to individual’s reproductive rights and access to healthcare and to create a model for other states to follow

Thank you .
Nancy Braverman and Barbara Deitch
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