

Testimony in support of SB848, Public Health Abortion Grant Program

March 4, 2025

To the honorable members of the Maryland Senate Finance Committee

My name is Julie A. Rosen, and I am a constituent of MD District 16, as well as a volunteer member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland State Policy Advocacy Committee (NCJW, MD SPA). I am writing to express strong support for SB848.

This support is based on NCJW resolution IV.2, "The advancement of every person's right to reproductive freedom, including access to legal abortion, medically accurate information, contraception, fertility treatments, adoption, and the elimination of obstacles that limit reproductive justice."

Since the Dobbs decision that overturned the right to abortion in the USA, access to abortion care clinical services is largely dependent on an individual's zip code and socioeconomic status. Given the vengeful approach to reproductive health care advancing in the federal Congress, I believe the Maryland legislature must use every available option to generate funding to aid those seeking necessary and life-saving abortion care.

SB848 is a state-wide law that 'weaves the thread' between monies available, but left unused, and a state-level law that can uphold our values to 'do good' for those in need, especially in light of the restrictions being imposed nationally. The innovative, but legal, use of previously allocated premium funds collected by health insurance carriers will aid both individuals in need of abortion care and the medical providers with expertise in this practice. Finally, I favor SB848 because these monies will not place a fiscal 'hit' on the Maryland taxpayer and yet will 'do good' for those in need.

On behalf of myself, as well as my friends, family, neighbors, and the larger community of Jewish women who—as evidenced in the book of Exodus-- value life and affirm that protecting existing life is paramount at all stages of pregnancy, I urge the committee to support SB848.

Thank you for considering this testimony,

Julie A. Rosen, Ph.D.
6307 Blackwood Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
julie.a.rosen@verizon.net