



Letter of Support

Senate Bill SB848 - Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment

*Senate Finance & Budget and Taxation Committees
March 6, 2025*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 848, which establishes the Public Health Abortion Grant Program. As Maryland's Comptroller, I am pleased to stand in favor of this legislation to expand access to reproductive health care services for all Maryland women.

SB848 presents a thoughtful and critical response to the growing need for accessible, affordable, and equitable abortion care. This legislation is especially important now – at a time when women's health care options vary depending on the state in which they reside. Maryland must continue to be a safe haven for women who seek control over their bodies and their reproductive rights.

The Public Health Abortion Grant Program is designed to provide financial assistance to eligible organizations to deliver essential services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise unable to afford care. The bill ensures that funds are used in a transparent way, with clear guidelines on how grants will be allocated to support clinical services and administrative costs. Moreover, it protects patient confidentiality by ensuring that identifying information is not disclosed, reinforcing the trust that is crucial in sensitive health care services.

The bill's approach to funding this access through the Public Health Abortion Grant Program Fund—established from insurance premium contributions—is a sustainable model that supports ongoing access to care without placing strain on the state's budget. By leveraging funds that would otherwise be underutilized, we are making a smart, responsible investment in the health of our residents by ensuring that these critical services remain available.

I also commend the bill's provision that ensures at least 90% of appropriated funds are used for direct services, minimizing administrative overhead and ensuring the funds reach the communities that need them most. This program will improve access to abortion care throughout Maryland, particularly in underserved communities.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to give favorable consideration to SB848. This bill will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Maryland women and demonstrate our state's ongoing commitment to equity, health care access, and reproductive freedom.

Best,

Maryland Comptroller

