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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 24, 2025

To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for **SB848: Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment**. This critical legislation is a necessary step in ensuring that individuals—particularly women—have access to essential, comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion services, without financial or logistical barriers.

As you are aware, access to abortion care is a fundamental component of reproductive health and autonomy. However, for many individuals in Maryland, particularly those in rural areas, low-income communities, and marginalized populations, accessing these services remains a significant challenge. Financial constraints, lack of nearby providers, and systemic barriers disproportionately impact women who are already facing economic and social hardships. SB848 directly addresses these obstacles by establishing a Public Health Abortion Grant Program that will provide funding to improve access to clinical abortion services across the state.

This legislation ensures that individuals can receive the reproductive health care they need without undue financial strain. By creating a special, nonlapsing fund, SB848 provides sustainable resources to expand abortion care accessibility, ensuring that no Marylander is forced to delay or forgo essential medical care due to cost concerns. Additionally, requiring that certain premium funds collected by health insurance carriers be allocated toward expanding access to abortion services further reinforces Maryland's commitment to reproductive freedom and health equity.

Ensuring accessible and affordable abortion care is not just a health issue—it is an issue of economic justice, gender equity, and fundamental rights. Women must have the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and futures without unnecessary barriers. SB848 is a vital step toward guaranteeing that reproductive health care remains a protected and accessible right for all individuals in Maryland, regardless of income or geographic location.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report for SB848. Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to improving the lives of Marylanders.