

Indivisible: Central Maryland

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TESTIMONY FOR SB0848 Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Senator Guzzone

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates

Position: FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates for Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports SB0848**, **Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment.** We ask you to VOTE FAVORABLY for SB0848.

SB0848 creates a first-in-the nation grant program to cover abortion care for people who are uninsured, underinsured, or struggling financially. It uses existing funds (\$25 million from surplus insurance premiums), so would not cost taxpayers anything. This bill is so important! A right you cannot afford to exercise is not a real right. Thankfully, Marylanders voted overwhelmingly to protect abortion rights, but for many people, cost remains an obstacle. As well, abortion care should not rely on charity. Right now, non-profits and individuals work to help poor people pay for abortion care, but this is unjust and unreliable.

Maryland has led on reproductive freedom, for which we are grateful. Let's extend the right to abortion care to everyone. Abortion care is for everyone, not just the wealthy. Your FAVORABLE vote on SB0848 can extend this right to any Marylander who needs it.

Respectfully,

Liz Enagonio Susan Radke lead advocates, Indivisible Central Maryland members, Maryland Legislative Coalition