



Bill No: HB930
Title: Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Hearing: February 27, 2025
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB930 - Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment** is a priority on the [2025 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB930 supports reproductive freedom and autonomy in Maryland. The bill will provide direct funding of abortion services and practical support services such as travel and child care. Individuals who are pregnant face significant barriers to obtaining abortion care including stigma, marginalization from the healthcare system, and cost. The Abortion Care Access Fund Act of 2025 will support women in navigating these barriers by providing financial support for the services they need to effectuate their reproductive health decisions.

Maryland enshrined the right to abortion in the Maryland Constitution with Question 1 on November 5, 2024. However, the right to abortion does not equate to access. Maryland’s abortion providers are on the verge of a crisis because funding for abortion care has dropped dramatically. Many providers rely on abortion funds to support care for people who are uninsured or underinsured. Abortion funds also support people who are too afraid to use their insurance, as they fear their spouse, parent or family member might find out. While there was a surge of donations to abortion funds following the Dobbs decision, those donations have dropped precipitously. Many abortion funds only have enough money to open about 3 days a week, leaving many people who need resources without anywhere to turn. Unlike other women’s health services, such as family planning or cancer screening, there are NO public health grant programs for abortion care. This situation is the legacy of federal restrictions such as the Hyde amendment.

The Abortion Care Access Fund Act of 2025 will ensure abortion remains accessible in Maryland to all, regardless of income level or insurance status. The fund will support abortion services as well as practical support services, such as travel and child care.

The Fund is made possible by tapping into unspent insurance premiums for abortion coverage. As a result of an obscure provision of the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies are forced to overcharge for abortion coverage (\$12 for each person a year), yet they are not allowed to spend those funds on anything other than abortion. As a result, insurers accrue about \$3 million in unspent abortion premiums a year. By the end of this year, insurers will have an accumulated surplus of about \$25 million collected over the past 10 years. The bill will transfer these funds to the Maryland Department of Health to distribute to non-profit organizations with abortion funds.

With this bill, Maryland would be the first-in-the-national to establish this type of fund. We can set a precedent for other states also seeking to shore-up abortion access. We urge you to support of **HB930**.

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
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MLAW 2025 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Garrett Branch
AAUW Howard County
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
AAUW Maryland
Anne Arundel County NOW
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence
Calvert County Democratic Womens' Club
Charles County Commission for Women
Child Justice, Inc.
City of College Park MD
Court Watch Montgomery
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority North Arundel County Alumnae Chapter
FinnCORE, Inc.
Frederick County Commission for Women
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Kids for Saving Earth
Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County, MD, NOW
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel County Chapter
NCBWSOMD
Salam Sudan Foundation (SSF)
ShareBaby, Inc.
Stella's Girls Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center of UMB
Trans Maryland
Unrooted Culture
Women of Honor International
Women's Equality Day Celebration across Maryland Coalition
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis

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