



Position: Favorable
Health and Government Operations
HB930/SB848: Public Health Abortion Grant Program

To: The Honorable Delegates Lopez, Allen, Alston, Amprey, Atterbeary, Bagnall, Bartlett, Bhandari, Bofo, Boyce, Cardin, Chang, Charkoudian, Clippinger, Conaway, Crosby, Crutchfield, Cullison, Davis, Ebersole, Edelson, Embry, Fair, Feldmark, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Fraser-Hidalgo, Guyton, Guzzone, Hill, Ivey, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, Kerr, Korman, Lehman, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, McCaskill, Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Pena-Melnyk, Phillips, Pruski, Queen, Roberson, Rogers, Rosenberg, Ruff, Ruth, Shetty, Simmons, Simpson, Smith, Solomon, Spiegel, Stein, Stewart, Taveras, Terrasa, Toles, Valderrama, Vogel, Watson, Wells, White Holland, Wilkins, Williams, Wilson, Wims, Wolek, Woods, Woorman, Wu, Young, and Ziegler

Greetings,

My name is Lailah Williams and I am the Advocacy Intern for Black Girls Vote, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to engaging, educating, and empowering black women to activate their voice by using their vote. I would like to thank the Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to share why this issue is important to our organization.

Black Girls Vote has four main pillars: economic development, education, healthcare and of course voting rights. We are committed to democracy and protecting our right to choose. We do this by cultivating a community of informed citizens and educating them of their rights to inclusive medical options. Recognizing the importance and impact of abortion access, we intentionally focus our efforts on ensuring that all those in Maryland can have knowledge of what procedures are available.

For this reason, we urge support for HB930/SB848 which would establish the Public Health Abortion Grant Program to provide grants to improve access to abortion care clinical services for individuals in the State. Below you will find more reasons why it is imperative that we support access to advanced abortion care in Maryland:

1. Maryland requires public medical assistance programs to cover abortion services and private insurance plans that cover labor and delivery to also cover abortion services.¹
2. The Moore-Miller Administration's FY 2025 \$5 million budget allocation increases Medicaid provider reimbursement for abortion care and reproductive services and the Maryland Department of Health has awarded a \$10.6 million grant to the University of Maryland, Baltimore, to administer Maryland's Abortion Care Clinical Training Program.²

Sincerely,

Lailah Williams, Advocacy Intern
Black Girls Vote, Inc.
Email: advocacyintern@blackgirlsvote.com

¹<https://reproductiverights.org/maps/state/maryland/>

²<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-156-million-investment-to-improve-abortion-care-access-statewide.aspx>