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The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland

IN SUPPORT OF

House Bill #0930: Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multiracial, multigender, trans-led community power-building organization dedicated to Maryland's trans community. Equitable access to health and contraceptive care is one of our core causes, and we believe that this program is not only a crucial leap forward but common sense. Considering the current political climate, it is now even more important than ever that Marylanders have heightened and unhindered access to integral comprehensive care.

It is no secret that transgender and gender non-conforming individuals often face significant barriers to accessing healthcare due to discrimination, culturally competent providers, and financial constraints. The establishment of this grant program as a special, non-lapsing fund will ensure that resources are always available to support this critical initiative and that financial barriers do not prevent individuals from accessing necessary healthcare.

House Bill 0930 is a common-sense bill for several reasons: it recognizes that healthcare is a fundamental human right and seeks to eliminate disparities in access to essential services. By providing financial support for abortion care, the bill ensures that all Marylanders, regardless of their economic status, can receive the care they need; access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, is vital for the well-being of individuals and promotes healthier, more resilient communities; safe access to abortion care is the best preventative to negative outcomes associated with unsafe or inaccessible abortion services, such as health



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complications and economic hardships; and this bill takes a proactive approach to addressing disparities within contraceptive healthcare access and supporting vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, Trans Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 0930.