



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr
Governor of the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

We are deeply concerned to read in *The Washington Post* that you are considering not releasing the \$3.5 Million dollars fenced off in the budget for the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. You have committed to treating reproductive rights as "settled law" in Maryland, and yet in the face of grave threats, you appear to be failing to protect these rights for Marylanders.

Our nation is facing the largest reproductive health crisis in our lifetime. From the recently revealed draft decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, we know with near certainty that the Supreme Court will overturn the protection of abortion rights under *Roe v. Wade*. As a consequence, over 35 million women, which is almost half the women of reproductive age in the United States, will lose the right to make their own decisions about pregnancy. Twenty-six states are poised to implement abortion bans almost immediately following the *Dobbs* decision.

Maryland has a responsibility to ensure access to abortion care for individuals seeking this basic health care service in our state. If we do not rise to the challenge, many women will be forced to carry pregnancies to term or seek abortion care outside of the health care system. This situation is untenable and disproportionately impacts women from Black and brown communities, rural areas, and low-income families.

During the 2022 session, the Maryland General Assembly had the foresight to enact House Bill 937 – Abortion Care Access Act to increase access abortion care in Maryland. The bill establishes a comprehensive strategy to increase the number and diversity of abortion care providers and reduce financial barriers for Marylander seeking care.

One of the most critical components of the Abortion Care Access Act is the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. The bill requires an annual appropriation starting in fiscal 2024. The Maryland General Assembly set aside \$3.5 million in the fiscal 2023 budget in case the Program needed to be started sooner. **Given the dire development in the Dobbs case, we respectfully request you make an immediate decision to release the \$3.5 in fiscal 2023 funds for the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program.**

Within several months if not weeks, we may be one of the few safe states within reach for women as far away as Ohio. This influx of patients will result in significant delays and barriers to care for Marylanders. We cannot desert any woman, whether from Maryland or other state, who needs abortion care services. Please release the funds for the Clinical Training Program immediately.

Sincerely,



Signed jointly by the following legislators:

Delegate Gabriel Acevero
Delegate Marlon Amprey
Chairman Vanessa Atterbeary
Delegate Heather Bagnall
Chairman Ben Barnes
Delegate Darryl Barnes
Delegate Sandy Bartlett
Chairman Kumar Barve
Senator Pam Beidle
Delegate Lisa Belcastro
Delegate Regina Boyce
Delegate Ben Brooks
Delegate Jon Cardin
Delegate Al Carr
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Chairman Luke Clippinger
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield
Delegate Bonnie Cullison
Senator Sarah Elfreth
Vice Chair Brian Feldman
Delegate Jessica Feldmark

Delegate Wanika Fisher
Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison
Delegate Linda Foley
Delegate Cathi Forbes
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
Delegate Michelle Guyton
Chairman Guy Guzzone
Delegate Faye Martin Howell
Senator Shelly Hettleman
Deelgate Terri Hill
Delegate Julian Ivey
Delegate Dana Jones
Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan
Delgate Anne Kaiser
Chairman Delores Kelley
Vice Chair Ariana Kelly
Delegate Ken Kerr
Senator Nancy King
Senator Kathy Klausmeier
Delegate Marc Korman
Senator Ben Kramer
Senator Clarence Lam

Senator Susan Lee
Delegate Mary Lehman
Delegate Jazz Lewis
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate Karen Lewis-Young
Delegate Brooke Lierman
Delegate Lesley Lopez
Delegate Sara Love
Majority Leader Eric Luedtke
Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Delegate David Moon
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
Delegate Edith Patterson
Chairman Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Delegate Shane Pendergrass
Chairman Paul Pinsky
Delegate Roxanne Prettyman
Delegate Susie Proctor
Delegate Lily Qi
Delegate Kirill Reznik
Delegate Mike Rogers
Delegate Sandy Rosenberg
Delegate Sheila Ruth
Delegate Emily Shetty
Chairman Will Smith
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Delegate Jared Solomon
Vice Chair Dana Stein
Delegate Vaughn Stewart
Delegate Jen Terrasa
Delegate Kris Valderrama
Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
Senator Mary Washington
Vice Chair Alonzo Washington
Delegate Courtney Watson
Delegate Melissa Wells
Parliamentarian Jheanelle Wilkins
Delegate Nicole Williams
Delegate Pat Young