



Peter Franchot  
Comptroller

May 4, 2022

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

Dear Governor Hogan:

As you know, the recently leaked draft opinion authored by Justice Alito on *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* makes it all but certain that the conservative majority on the Supreme Court intends to overrule its own precedent on *Roe v. Wade*. With the Court expected to issue its final ruling on *Dobbs* within the next two months, Maryland must move with urgent and deliberative speed to ensure that we are prepared to not only provide access to abortion care, but also preserve the reproductive rights and freedom of women in Maryland.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the General Assembly enacted and overrode your veto of *The Abortion Care Access Act*. In addition to expanding access to and insurance coverage of abortion care services, the legislation mandates an annual appropriation of \$3.5 million in the state's operating budget, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, for the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. Additionally, the legislature restricted \$3.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget to support the Program. Upon the Court's anticipated ruling on *Dobbs*, which would end the federal protections to abortion under its *Roe* decision imminent, abortion will be outlawed in 26 states – including nearby states like West Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Demand for abortion care will dramatically increase as a result, and Maryland must and should be prepared to provide these critical services.

Given the significant danger the impending Court decision has on millions of women and families, I am calling on you to **immediately** release the \$3.5 million restricted in the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget to provide funding for abortion care training programs at community-based and hospital-based provider sites. To ensure that our state has enough health professionals to meet the expected increased need for these services, and especially considering the majority of abortions are conducted by medication, we should immediately and safely train health professionals through programs with these funds. With more than \$200 million left in our State's General Fund, state government is positioned to deploy funds now before the devastating and catastrophic public health effects of the Court's decision overruling *Roe* takes effect.

An overwhelming majority of Marylanders of all ages, religions, genders, and political stripes have made their stance clear when it comes to abortion. As their elected leaders, it is incumbent upon us to ensure safe and affordable access to healthcare.

Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER FRANCHOT  
Comptroller