



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Support [SB 848](#) / [HB 930](#) -

Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment

TO: Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.
FROM: Janice Bird, MD
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland Health Care
DATE: February 27, 2024

We are supporting this bill as members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland - UULM-MD. We stand in strong support of the right to abortion care and bodily autonomy. Reproductive freedom and our ability to determine if, when, and how we become pregnant and choose to parent cannot be separated from other fundamental rights, including racial justice, economic security, and access to health care...But, how do you pay for it?

As people of faith, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. Reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, should be available for all in order to provide each individual with health, wholeness, and dignity. Most Marylanders agree with us; over 76% of the state voted for Question 1 to insure reproductive freedom in Maryland.

This bill will provide grants to improve access to abortion care clinical services for individuals in the State who cannot otherwise access or pay for it. It uses no taxpayer money and is funded through a surplus of insurance premiums separated and earmarked only for abortion services per the federal Affordable Care Act. The program will be managed by the Department of Health, like all other public health programs with 90% of all money going directly to grantees and providers.

Please vote favorably for Public Health Abortion Grant Program

It will fund a critical reproductive health service to those who cannot afford it, without adding to the budget deficit.

Thank you
Jan Bird, MD

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