



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 930 –
Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment
Health and Government Operations Committee
February 27, 2025**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, synagogues, and social services agencies throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders. The JCRC is focused on promoting social justice and intergroup relations and combating antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

The JCRC is committed to religious liberty and reproductive choice. Our agency has a long history of supporting reproductive rights, and last year we were a vocal supporter of enshrining the right to an abortion and other reproductive freedoms in the State's Constitution which passed with an overwhelming majority of votes in 2024. In our ongoing efforts to strengthen Maryland's reproductive freedom laws, including access to abortion care, the JCRC supports House Bill 930 – Public Health Abortion Grant Program – Establishment. This Bill will create a public health grant program to support equitable access to abortion care in Maryland. It will be paid for by unspent premiums for abortion coverage since those funds cannot be returned.

In light of the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision which overturned a woman's constitutionally protected right to an abortion, the JCRC believes it is critical to support HB 930. We must ensure that women without resources can have equitable access to abortion care through this innovative public health grant program. Although the Dobbs decision does not impact Maryland law, it does add an urgency to ensuring a women's fundamental right to reproductive freedom. The State of Maryland already has codified reproductive freedom laws and enshrined these laws in our State Constitution; nonetheless, we need to guarantee that access is equitable. For these reasons, we ask the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 930.

