



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony in Support of HB 477, Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements

TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Janice Bird, MD Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights

DATE: February 14, 2023

The members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland ask for your support of HB 477, the Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements

Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms that all of our bodies are sacred, and that we are each endowed with the twin gifts of agency and conscience. Each of us should have the power to decide what does—and doesn't—happen to our bodies at every moment of our lives because consent and bodily autonomy are holy.

This bill will create the process for each public senior higher education institution, in consultation with students, to develop and implement a reproductive health services plan to provide at the institution or to refer students to a comprehensive range of reproductive health services. The bill requires that the Maryland Department of Health, on request, provide assistance to a public senior higher education institution in developing the plan. Access to—and financial payment for—these reproductive health services reduces disparities in resources that may make it difficult for certain groups of people to exercise autonomy over their own bodies.

Please vote YES for HB 477!

Sincerely,

Janice Bird, MD

UULM-MD Lead Advocate for Reproductive Health Care Rights