



March 10, 2023

Chairman Delegate Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Delegate Ben Barnes and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 477-Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements.

This bill will require, on or before August 1, 2024, 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; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on request, to provide assistance to a public senior higher education institution in developing the plan.

The Legislative Black Caucus is devoted to protecting the freedoms and liberties of all Black Marylanders. This bill will encourage the creation of safe reproductive health strategies in public senior higher education institutions. This legislation promotes future access to reproductive health services for our students. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 477.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland