



Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill Number: HB 477

Title: Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements

Hearing Date: February 14, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 477 - Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements*. The bill will require 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 services must include access to contraception, sexually transmitted infection prevention and treatment, and abortion care services.

ACNM is committed to supporting policy solutions that ensure all people have access to a full range of preventive, reproductive, and sexual health services. Access to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health plays a vital role in reducing health and economic disparities. The world's major health and human rights organizations affirm that when individuals have full autonomy over their reproductive health, it elevates level of education and economic growth for themselves and their families, benefitting entire communities. This bill provides important protections to young Marylanders who deserve the education and resources to make their own decisions about their reproductive health.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.