



## Maryland Section

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair  
Members, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: February 14, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 477 – *Public Senior Higher Education Institutions – Reproductive Health Services Plans – Requirements*

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maryland Section (MDACOG), which represents the Maryland physicians who serve the obstetrical and gynecological needs of Maryland women and their families, **supports** House Bill 477.

House bill 477 requires 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 services.

MDACOG strongly supports ensuring that all Marylanders have access to the full range of reproductive and sexual health services, which play a critical role in reducing health and economic disparities. The bill will provide important protections to college students who deserve the education and resources to access and address their reproductive health. It will also help reduce the stigma often associated with sexual and reproductive health services, thereby assisting in assuring improved health outcomes and enhancing the students' ability to pursue and succeed in their academic pursuits.

All Marylanders should have access to safe and comprehensive reproductive health services. College students' knowledge of and ability to access such services can often be challenging. Passage of House Bill 477 will significantly help reduce those challenges. A favorable report is requested.