



Bill No: HB477
Title: Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements
Committee: Appropriations
Hearing: February 14, 2023
Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB477 - Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans - Requirements** is a priority on the [2023 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB477 requires public institutions of higher education to develop policies that guarantee students access to emergency contraception and medicated abortion.

Many college campuses have little to no access to essential reproductive healthcare resources. In cases of sexual assault, unprotected or coerced sex, and failed birth control, on campus access to emergency contraception (EC) and medicated abortion is an important way for students to maintain bodily autonomy and prevent unwanted pregnancy in a timely and private manner. Access off campus presents barriers such as limited health center pharmacy hours, transportation challenges, high pharmacy costs, pharmacies not stocking EC on the shelf, enforcing outdated age restrictions, or refusing to sell EC outright.

Under this bill, public 4-year colleges and universities will be required to provide 24-hour access to over-the-counter contraception on campus through student health centers, retail outlets on campus, and/or vending machines, provide **or** refer for a full range of reproductive health services, and prepare and submit an annual reproductive health access plan, in consultation with students, to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Further, statistically women of color have lesser access to healthcare resources and are more likely to not finish college due to unplanned pregnancy. Providing reproductive healthcare resources to these women is an incredibly important step in addressing the multifaceted injustices in both poverty and healthcare.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB477.

MLAW 2023 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2023 Legislative Agenda*:

AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Howard County
AAUW Maryland
Advocacy and Training Center
Allegany County Women's Action Coalition
Anne Arundel County NOW
Aspire Ascend
Baltimore County State Democratic Central Committee
Bound for Better
Business and Professional Women of Maryland
Charles County Commission for Women
Climate Xchange Maryland
Drake Institute of Women's Policy
Empowered Women in Business International
ERA Coalition
For All Seasons, Inc.
Kensington-Rockville AAUW
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Maryland Commission for Women
Maryland NOW
Maryland WISE Women
Miller Partnership Consultants LLC
MoCoWoMen
Montgomery County Business & Professional Women (MC BPW)
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Prince George's County Chapter
National Women of Achievement, Inc.
Planned Parenthood of Maryland
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC
Reproductive Justice Inside
Southern Prince George's Business and Professional Women
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter
University of Baltimore School of Law If/When/How Chapter
Women's Democratic League of Frederick County
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis
Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland

**as of 2/3/2023*

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

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