



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 14, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 527 – *Community Colleges – Contraception – Access Requirements*

On behalf of the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 527.

Senate Bill 527 requires community colleges, in consultation with students and student organizations, to develop and implement a plan to provide students with 24-hour access to over-the-counter contraception through the student health center, retail establishments, or vending machines. The community colleges will be required to report on how access is provided, available information on the amount of contraception provided on campus, and how the college consulted with students on the development and implementation of the plan. The Maryland Department of Health may provide assistance to a college in developing the plan.

Community college students, the majority of whom are adolescents or young adults, should have easy access to over-the-counter contraception in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies, which could negatively impact a student's health and wellbeing as well as their educational path, and progress toward professional and personal independence. Often students are hesitant to express their need for contraception and having easy 24-hour access will enable them to obtain this critical protection without requiring that they discuss their needs with others. A favorable report is requested.

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