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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 527 - Community Colleges - Contraception - Access Requirements

Hearing: February 14, 2024

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *Senate Bill 527 – Community Colleges - Contraception - Access Requirements*. This bill requires each community college, in consultation with students, to develop and implement a plan to provide over-the-counter contraception at the institution through the student health center, on-campus retailer, vending machines or some other means that provides access to all students.

Building on the success of last year’s legislation to require public colleges and universities to improve access to reproductive health care, this bill will improve access to contraception for thousands of busy community college students. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) finds that when people are able to access contraception with few logistical and stigma-related barriers, there is an increase in positive health outcomes for both students and their communities. Further, when people can easily receive birth control, rates of unintended pregnancy, preterm births, and short interval pregnancies decrease, while better access to contraception is associated with increased financial opportunities and educational attainment.¹

Every person should have easy access to over-the-counter contraception. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Erin Bradley at erin.bradley@ppm.care or (443) 604-3544.

¹ <https://www.astho.org/communications/blog/opportunities-barriers-to-contraception-access-on-college-campuses/#:~:text=The%20program%20helps%20reduce%20unintended,and%20deliver%20sexual%20health%20education.>