



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 511

**Public Senior Higher Education Institutions
Pregnant and Parenting Students Plan requirements
(Cross filed with HB0840 - Delegate Althea McCaskill)**

Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and Appropriation Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to provide important details regarding SB 511- on Public Senior Higher Education Institutions – Requirements for a Plan for Pregnant and Parenting Students Plan.

Previously introduced in 2024 in the house, SB511 recognizes the resource challenges faced by a select group of students – especially women who are either parenting or pregnant – by providing information about support services that enable them to complete their education through this challenging and changing period in their lives.

This bill updates Maryland’s existing law – "Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans -Requirements", that the public senior high schools, universities community and 4-year colleges are currently required to follow.

Its purpose is that Maryland’s educational institutions adopt a plan to provide education and information resources to help these students fulfill their education goals and further their ability to become self-supporting.

Specifically, this bill requires specified public senior (four-year) higher education institutions (all but the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies, the University of Maryland Global Campus, and the University of Baltimore) to adopt a

plan regarding pregnant and parenting students that is consistent with Title IX of the federal Higher Education Act and includes certain elements on their websites by August 1, 2026.

- (1) Referral information about on- and/or off-campus services with the availability of, or eligibility for government assistance programs.
- (2) Providing information about or referral to adoption services.
- (3) Identifying the availability of accommodations within the education institutions, and
- (4) Providing a referral network of health care service providers.

This revision or update to the existing legislation ensures that the implementation and reporting processes for the new provisions are consistent with the established framework of the bill.

After hearing today's testimony, I urge the Committee to give a favorable decision on this bill.