



House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 20, 2025

House Bill 939 – *Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG), we submit this letter of support with amendment for House Bill 939.

The bill aims to improve access to over-the-counter birth control in Maryland. It mandates the Maryland Commission for Women to establish the Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control. This Collaborative will study and make recommendations to enhance access to over-the-counter birth control, including implementing State coverage requirements, advancing point-of-sale options, identifying public health initiatives, and enhancing education and engagement. The Collaborative is required to submit an interim report by January 1, 2026, and a final report by December 1, 2027. This initiative aims to ensure that more people can access birth control easily and affordably, supporting reproductive freedom and autonomy.

Both MDAAP and MDACOG support over-the-counter access to contraception as it helps women obtain contraceptives more easily, thereby reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancies. This increased accessibility ensures that individuals can obtain contraception without unnecessary barriers, promoting better reproductive health outcomes. Therefore, we respectfully request the inclusion of two membership spots on the Collaborative: one for a physician from MDAAP and one for a physician from MDACOG. The suggested amendment is below. Their expertise in pediatric and obstetric care would provide invaluable perspectives to the Collaborative. With the amendment noted, we support House Bill 939.

AMENDMENT NO. 1:

On page 3, line 11, strike “and”; in line 13, strike “.” and insert “;”. In line 14, insert:

(xv) one representative of the Maryland Chapter, of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

(xvi) one representative of the Maryland Section, of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

For more information call:

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