



Maryland Community Health System

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

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *House Bill 939 – Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control*. The bill creates a 2-year collaborative to advance implementation of Maryland's coverage requirements for over-the-counter birth control.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers providing primary, behavioral, and dental care to underserved communities throughout Maryland. Our health centers serve people who face multiple challenges in obtaining healthcare services. Insurance coverage of OTC medications can be transformative for people who live in a pharmacy desert, face transportation issues, and cannot see a provider because of inflexible work schedules. Maryland has required coverage of OTC birth control under Medicaid, state-regulated private plans, and the State Employees' plan for nearly 10-years. However, few people have been able to obtain coverage.

HB 939 will advance implementation of OTC birth control coverage by convening a collaborative to advise on operationalizing coverage across Maryland. The Collaborative will also support innovative programs to support federally qualified health centers and other community-based partners in providing access to OTC birth control for people without insurance.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.