



# Indivisible: Central Maryland

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## TESTIMONY FOR HB0939

### **A Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control Fund**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegates Pena–Melnik, Acevero, Bagnall, Cullison, and Terrasa

**Committee:** Health and Government Operations

**Organization Submitting:** Indivisible Central Maryland

**Person Submitting:** Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Our names are Liz Enagonio and Susan Radke, lead advocates for Indivisible Central Maryland, a grassroots organization of constituents dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. Indivisible Central Maryland **strongly supports HB0939, A Maryland Commission for Women – Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control Fund.** We ask you to VOTE FAVORABLY for HB0939.

This bill would require the Maryland Commission for Women to establish the Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Birth Control to study access to over-the-counter birth control. It requires the Collaborative to submit an interim report by January 1, 2026, and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2027.

In the increasingly hostile federal environment that seeks to prevent access to all types of reproductive care, access to birth control is essential to reproductive freedom and autonomy. Increasing access to over-the-counter birth control is a critical strategy to Empower Marylanders who have been unable to access birth control through healthcare systems. Fortunately, Maryland was the first state to require coverage of over-the-counter birth control with the enactment of the Contraceptive Equity Act of 2016, and at this time, 2.7 million Marylanders have coverage of over-the-counter birth control through a State-regulated private plan, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, or the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program. On July 13, 2023, the federal Food and Drug Administration expanded the number of over-the-counter birth control options with the approval of the first daily birth control pill for over-the-counter use. Maryland can continue to lead the nation in ensuring over-the-counter birth control access by establishing a consumer-focused

system to assess, document, improve and simplify access. For these reasons, **Indivisible Central Maryland recommends a favorable vote on HB0939.**

Respectfully,

Liz Enagonio

Susan Radke

lead advocates, Indivisible Central Maryland  
members, Maryland Legislative Coalition