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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: HB 1444

Title: Discrimination – Definition of Race – Hair Texture and Hairstyles

Hearing Date: March 6, 2020

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 1444 – Discrimination – Definition of Race – Hair Texture and Hairstyles*. This bill would define “race” and “protective hairstyle” to strengthen the law prohibiting discrimination for traits historically associated with race. PPM supports laws that prohibit discrimination in Maryland. This bill follows an act recently passed in Montgomery County that prohibits discrimination based on hairstyles such as braids, locks, afros, curls, and twists. This bill would offer that protection to all state residents.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.